the SPARTAN

page 1A
issue 1 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Friday, September 12, 2008

Tight funds force administration to close weight room after school

BY ANDY FRANKLIN
COPY EDITOR

While the football team occupies the attention of most students during the fall, another type of athletic activity is happening behind the scenes. Swimmers, wrestlers and basketball players are beginning to participate in weight-lifting programs in preparation for their respective seasons. For years, the weight room has been filled with the sounds of clanking dumbbells and athletes straining for yet another repetition. However, this year, the weight room has remained strangely quiet.

To cut costs, the administration is no longer paying for a supervisor to stay after school and supervise the students using the weight room, as was the case last year. This year, student-athletes are not allowed to use the weight room unless they are being supervised by the coach or assistant coach of their respective sport due to legal restrictions.

"There is no longer a paid chaperone in the weight room because of the district budget cuts," Rick Smith, Principal, said. "The classroom, which was the primary concern of the administration, was not greatly impacted by this choice, and that is why the decision was made."

The weight room is just one of many areas around the school to be affected by the budget cuts, which have been enacted to reduce the school district's million dollar deficit. While the classroom may not have been affected, many students have been inconvenienced by the decision.

"I don't like not being able to use the weight

Weight Room, continued on 2A

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Because of district budget cuts, the administration is unable to pay an after school adult to chaperone the weight room.

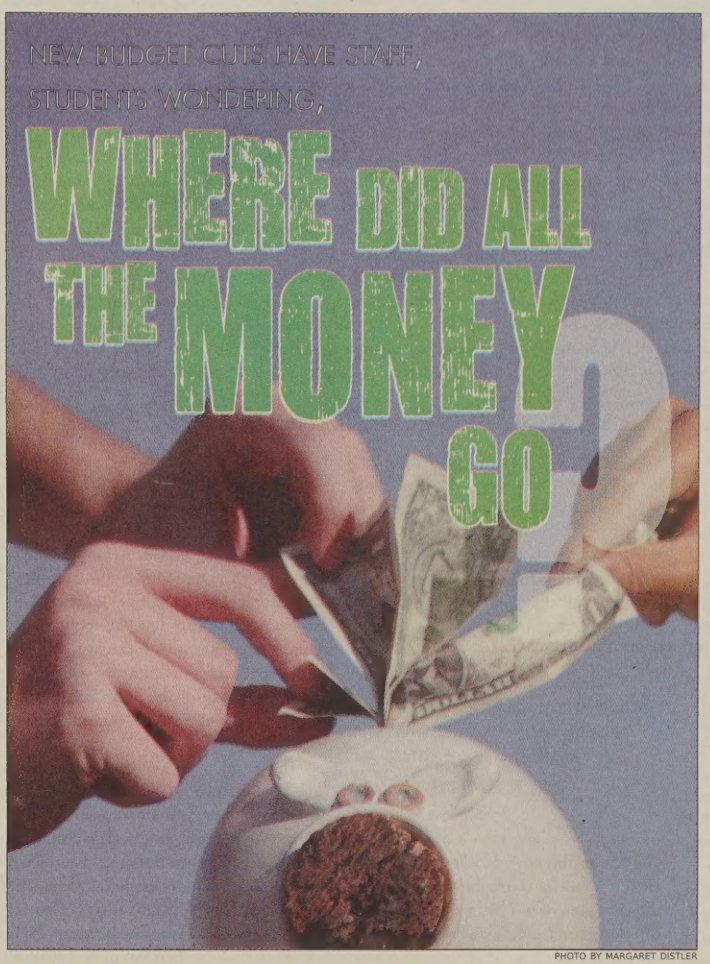


PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

With each new school year come new changes. Unfortunately, not all changes are positive. Attempting to compensate for low state funding, School Board officials have been forced to make strict cuts. The most devastating cuts to the student body are those concerning transportation. Because the budget is tight, students are no longer able to enjoy field trips or free rides to athletic events.

"I wish we had field trips," Emily Potts (11) said. "I enjoy learning experiences outside of the classroom."

Although most field trips will be cancelled, certain competitions, like We the People, that are built into the curriculum will continue to be sponsored. On the other hand, sporting and musical events that require students to take buses to compete will be privately funded.

"For soccer, we have to pay to take the bus to our games," Christy Tatara (12) said.

Although these restrictions may be upsetting, the Board has done everything possible to refrain from directly affecting students' education. Cutting employee hours, as well as eliminating a science and social studies resource room and support staff individuals, they hope to avoid laying-off teachers at all costs. Despite their efforts, should the tax referendum not pass

Budget Cuts, continued on 2A

BRIEFS

TEST PREP REGISTRATION
Register now for HHS SAT-ACT Prep Classes. Verbal classes will be held on Wednesdays beginning September 24 and Math on Thursdays beginning September 25, each for 6 weeks. Check with student services or the parent newsletter for more information.

4-STAR SCHOOL AWARD
On February 28th of 2008 a letter was received by our principal from the superintendent of the Indiana Department of Education explaining that Homestead was eligible to be awarded the 4-Star School Award for Indiana. The criteria for this award involves meeting the Adequate Yearly Progress for the previous year, along with this, the school must perform in the top 25% of student attendance rates. In addition, percentages of students passing English/language arts courses, Mathematics proficiency scores, and English proficiency scores must be met as well. Only 177 schools across the state of Indiana have been chosen for this award, this small "elite" group makes up less than 10% across the state.

ACT PERFECTION
David Ramsey, a senior at Homestead recently received a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. Along with this he also received a 760 in Writing, an 800 in Math, and an 800 in verbal. This adds up to a final SAT score of 2360. When questioned how he did it, David said he used prep books up to the night before.

PHOTO BY ZACH VESSELS

MIRADOR RENOVATION
Mirador, the former literary magazine, will now appear in the newspaper every other issue beginning September 26 as an extra features section. A complete book of student literary and photo submissions will be coming out at the end of the year.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued
PAGE 3A, Opinions: Parking Spots, Trace the Race, Ed Board
PAGE 4A, Life: Club Briefs, German Exchange Program, Environmental Club
PAGE 5A, Life: Sr. Peeper's Travels, Record Box Office, Kara's Column
PAGE 6A, Sports: Baseball State Finals, Football Game Doctors, Girl's Golf
PAGE 7A, Sports: Football, Boy's & Girl's Cross Country, Full Court Press
PAGE 8A, Cameron Saylor speaks about aftermath of food fight

Drug testing loses Hunter

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Many changes have been made to the random drug testing policy since the last school year. Not only was the drug dog Hunter retired from commission, the tests are also no longer conducted by the same person.

"Drug dogs are attached to a partner and Hunter belonged to Officer Pape, so when he left Homestead, she went with him," Tom Rhoades, Dean of Students, said.

With Hunter gone, plans are in motion to bring a new dog into the halls of the school.

Drug Testing, continued on 2A

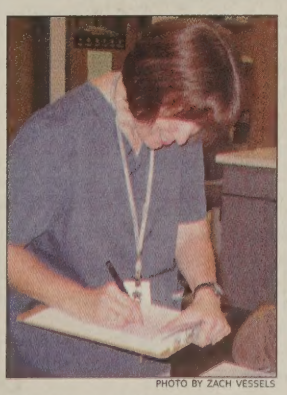


PHOTO BY ZACH VESSELS

School nurses, like Mrs. Quigley, are now responsible for drug testing students.

Homecoming Preview

BY AREZOO NAZARI
WRITER

Two thousand five hundred students, five spirit days, 16 court attendees, one game and one theme: Gold Rush. Every year, homecoming provides an opportunity for schools to show spirit. From dressing up to cheering at the football game, students of all grades take part in this school event. Unlike previous years, there is a theme set for this year's Homecoming, with the goal being to see a rush of students dressed in gold for the big game on Friday night.

One question that keeps popping up is whether or not there will be a dance this year. In past years, student government has held a bonfire in place of a school dance, but this year there

Homecoming Preview, continued on 2A

Moake returns to administration in assistant principal role

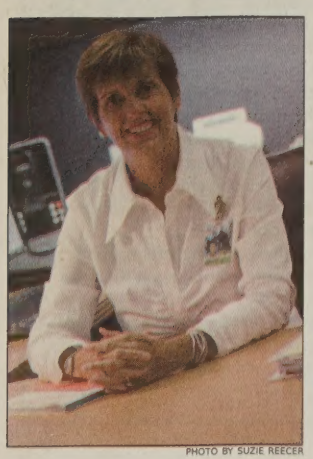


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

After leaving in 2007, Homestead's former principal of eight years, Dianne Moake, has returned to the administration as an assistant principal this school year.

Moake originally left her demanding position in 2007 to take more time for herself and to enjoy time with her new grandson. Instead of retirement, she took a job in the district building that did not require as many after school hours. However, when district-wide budget cuts called for her job in the district office to be eliminated, Moake decided to return to the administration as an assistant principal. While she considered applying for the open position of principal at Woodside Middle School, her past in the administration made her want to return to Homestead.

Moake also emphasizes how being around students was a major factor in her decision to return to Homestead.

"That's the thing I miss the most about my job [as principal]" Moake said. "[It] is the daily contact with the students. I don't have to be tied up in meetings all day."

While her job as assistant principal is not as time-consuming as her former role as head principal, she is still busy. Moake is in charge of data and reports, as well as overseeing all testing and curriculum at Homestead. In addition, she heads specific departments such as the Science and Special Education departments. As Moake settles into her new position in the administration, she is beginning to realize some of the advantages that come with less responsibility. Held responsible for all aspects of the school, head principal is an extremely demanding position.

"Being an assistant principal…I can have more of a focus," Moake said.

One area of focus that Moake is involved in is being the Director of a Smaller Learning Communities project aimed at helping students who struggle with academics. While the position is new to Moake, she is excited to see what the grant-funded program can do.

"I'm looking forward to helping to initiate some of the programs like after school tutoring opportunities and a program that can help students who are below grade level reading," Moake said.

Moake, continued on 2A

Spanish department welcomes three new teachers

Señorita Knee, Señora Yde, Señora McGuire hired to teach increasingly popular Spanish language courses

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Three new Spanish teachers have been introduced into the foreign language department this year. The newcomers are Denise Knee, Rachael McGuire and Lise Yde.

"I was surprised at how many new foreign language teachers there are this year," Allie Rice (12) said. "I have Señorita Knee, and she seems eager to do well and share her knowledge with the class."

Because the Spanish language is spoken in a large amount of countries, it is important for most of these countries to be represented in a Spanish class. Knee is a teacher that is able to provide that variety with experience in different countries like Costa Rica, Guatemala and Bolivia.

"Señorita Knee is a great teacher," Greg Dague (10) said. "She really knows how to keep the class interested and involved in the lesson."

An important part in learning another language is the pronunciation and practice of the different sounds associated with words and syllables. Although English and Spanish are somewhat similar, listening to the words as compared to reading them is key to understanding.

"Señora Yde is a really genuine Spanish teacher because she speaks to the class in Spanish constantly so that we can get used to the language," Brittany Hinderman (12) said. "It's really interesting because it does help and we are learning a lot more than what's in the vocabulary lists."

For the majority of the student population, it is an obligation to partake in foreign language classes. The Spanish class possesses the highest demand of all the foreign languages offered, because it is normally considered to be more beneficial to students simply due to its more common use among the world population.

"I chose to take Spanish because I thought it would be the most useful language to learn in a country where more and more people are immigrating in from Spanish speaking countries," Dague said. "Also, having at least a basic knowledge of the Spanish language can help my job outlook quite a bit."

Students often feel that taking a Spanish class will not be a waste of their time, but that it will be in fact rewarding towards their careers and future goals.

"I plan on pursuing a career in International Relations or Trade," Rice said. "I would like to learn other languages as well."

When a learning environment is surrounded by the passion and drive that a teacher feels for the subject they chose to pursue, there are no limits as to what students can accomplish.

"Spanish has always come naturally for me," Knee said. "I love the language and the people as well. I specifically love teaching Spanish because it is a great opportunity for students to learn something that can be used in almost any job and will be useful in their daily lives."

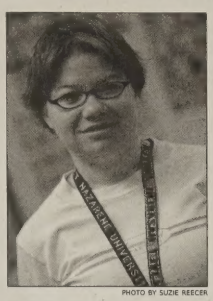


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Señorita Knee is one of the new Spanish teachers. She has traveled to Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Bolivia.

BUDGET CUTS CONTINUED FROM 1A

this spring, the results could be devastating.

The problem could get a lot worse if we don't pass the referendum in April," Rick Smith, Principal, said. "We could be looking at more than 50 teachers in the corporation gone because we can't afford to keep them. "

The referendum is a "special attachment to property taxes" which local taxpayers can vote to support or reject. Although agreeing to the referendum would raise taxes, Smith and Board members argue that the small cost would be well worth the benefits.

"I'm pretty positive towards the idea that we will get the referendum passed, because I think when people see what it really amounts to financially, it's not going to matter a whole lot," Smith said.

"For instance, if we base it on a hundred-thousand dollar house, let's say. It might cost you four dollars more a year. On a two hundred thousand dollar house, it might be thirteen dollars more a year, and so forth. Now some people thought that if we pass the referendum, then the savings your parents got from property taxes that were cut would raise right back to where they were. This year, property taxes probably went down about thirty percent, so some people thought if we passed a referendum, [taxes] would go back up, and they would lose that thirty percent, but that's not the case."

> "So all of a sudden, we were a million dollars under what we would anticipate for our budget. That is what's hurting us."
>
> **RICK SMITH**
> Principal

Because the voting ballet for the referendum fails to clarify how insignificant the tax raises would be, people are weary about supporting it. Therefore, the corporation is working to better inform voters. Any person registered to vote that lives in either Aboite or Lafayette Township is eligible to vote for the referendum.

"We're going to register students that have turned eighteen during lunch modules…so they can be a part of the process as well," Smith said.

Looking at the breakdown of the state's budget formula, Smith believes many voters will find the system unjust and be inclined to support the referendum. For instance, the determinant of how much money each district receives from the state is based on the number of students who have "free and reduced lunches." Because Homestead has very few, we receive less money. Therefore, this formula is widely protested because it does not take into consideration all of the necessary factors to adequately determine each district's budget.

"The problem is not in the corporation," Smith said. "The problem is the amount of money that the state determines they're going to give the corporation to function on. So all of a sudden, we were a million dollars under what we would anticipate for our budget. That is what's hurting us. The state needs to take a critical look at their funding formula and determine a better, more equitable way to not have that formula affect us so negatively.

"That's the problem…. We just hope that this is the end of it. We hope that from this point forward, we can get that referendum passed, and we won't have to cut anything more out."

DRUG TESTING CONTINUED FROM 1A

"Officer Tinkel will be training with a dog over the summer, so hopefully we will have one next year," Rhoades said.

Training is a long, tedious process, and a dog cannot be spontaneously provided to any person without completing the proper requirements, requiring months of training. As the drug dog was popular among students, Hunter will be missed.

"I think that having a drug dog was a good thing, because it did deter students," Nancy Gibson, Earth/Space Science teacher, said. "It was a positive influence on the kids and they enjoyed having her around. I'm hoping we get a new one."

Although having a drug dog was a positive experience, lacking one may have negative repercussions.

"The dog was a reinforcement," Nicole Ivanovic (10) said. "Without it, kids might try something because it's not as easy to get caught."

Due to the 1995 Supreme Court case Vernonia School District versus Acton, the random drug testing pool is not permitted to encompass the entire student population.

"[Only] students in extracurricular [activities] and students who drive are submitted [for testing]," said Rhoades.

Although the execution of the drug testing policy has not been changed, the panel of those that control it has both lost and gained staffers.

"The samples are collected through the nurse, but the person funded to conduct tests is no longer here," said Rhoades.

Some feel that random drug testing could benefit from even more modification and expansion.

"I think that all students, and even teachers, should be equally in line for drug testing," Gibson said. "No one is above suspicion."

Other protests have been made that the program unjustly targets athletes.

"Athletes are less likely to do drugs because they don't want to be kicked off the team," Ivanovic said. "We should test everyone. The kids who aren't getting tested are probably the kids doing [drugs]."

WEIGHT ROOM CONTINUED FROM 1A

room at Homestead," Tucker Smith (11) said. "It was easy to just go upstairs to the weight room after school and work out anytime. Now I have to leave to go to the YMCA because my coach isn't there to supervise. It's also harder to get people together to work out at the YMCA or somewhere else than it was when we could work out at Homestead."

The restricted use of the weight room has also affected students without memberships to gyms who still desire to work out, but are not affiliated with a sports team. Students who wish to lift weights just for the sake of staying in shape are now denied the opportunity to do so.

"I don't think it makes sense for some students to have to pay for a gym membership when we have a weight room at school that's not being used," Justin Behrendsen (12) said.

Whether students think the situation is fair or not, the administration is not planning on reinstating a chaperone to the weight room this year unless there is a significant change in the financial situation of the district. Until then, students must either find somewhere else to train or rely on their coaches to make time to supervise them in the weight room.

MOAKE CONTINUED FROM 1A

Since she left her position as principal, many new policies have been initiated at Homestead in regard to administrative changes and the new deans, as well as rule changes, like closed lunches. Moake believes that these changes must be given time before they are evaluated.

"In regard to the deans, if it's helping to make [Homestead] a safer place for kids, make it more secure, I think that's great," Moake said. "I will have to be here longer before I can comment on an opinion because I'm just experiencing them now that [the students] are back at school."

While the upperclassmen remember when Moake was principal, freshmen and sophomores have never known anything other than the current administration.

"Mrs. Moake seems really nice," Molly Quinn (10) said. "I think it would have been cool to have had her as a principal."

HOMECOMING PREVIEW, CONTINUED FROM 1A

has been enough time to plan a dance.

"I would prefer a dance because seeing everyone there getting their groove on is a lot more fun than a bonfire that you can have anytime," Brent Robinson (12) said.

Weeks prior to Homecoming week, student government is responsible for getting all the activities approved by the administration and ordering t-shirts and school spirit accessories.

"I really think this year's Homecoming will be a great turn out," Nicole Szoko (12), senior representative, said. "With the activities that we have planned, I think the student body as a whole will really enjoy it."

While most Homecoming week plans have been kept secret, student government also organizes a pep rally at the end of the week. Dress up days have also been scheduled during the week. Monday is hippie day, Tuesday is nerd day, Wednesday is Hawaiian shirt day, Thursday is blue day and the Friday as gold day.

"This year's Homecoming will set the standard [above] the previous years," Carolyn Mutton (11), executive board public relations officer, said, "because we have prepared earlier."

Counselors look to Docufide to fix transcript transferal woes

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Docufide is a new way for students to send their transcripts online when they apply for college or to transfer schools. This program allows school administrators to send transcripts to any accredited college or valid scholarship fund. Usually, the school sends a student's transcript by mail to another school or college, and then a school official authorizes the student's requests. However, with Docufide, the school officials transfer the student's information from the school to Docufide online. This means that students can now request their transcripts or track other requests that are in progress conveniently over the internet.

"[Because] the majority of the school has internet access, it will be easier for students to send their transcripts," Evan Snyder (12) said.

This program has many advantages for the school as well as the students. First, it is easier and more efficient than the old system. Also, this system will save everyone money because it costs less to process the transcripts online, as they are no longer paying for the postage stamps or other mailing supplies. Furthermore, it will also save the school staff time on processing transcripts manually because the automated request processing requires less effort. With less time spent processing transcripts, the school will have more time attending to students' needs.

Transcripts usually need signatures before they are mailed, but with Docufide, the administration will not need to physically sign it. Money will not be a problem for the school either, as the program is absolutely free.

When students send a transcript request, they will receive an e-mail conformation that their transcript request was sent to the school of their choice. They will receive a second confirmation when the transcript is sent electronically to the college or school. This process will ensure that the e-mail was sent at a quicker notice than if it was sent by mail.

"I'm going to use it [Docufide] because the application process is one less thing to worry about since it's easier to use," LaToya Walker (12) said.

SETTING UP DOCUFIDE

1. Go to Homestead's official Web site.
2. Then go to the guidance home page. To the left there will be section that says "Docufide."
3. There will be a link that says "click here" to request transcripts.
4. There will be another link that says to "sign up" to begin your order now.
5. When you are here you need to put down your school information.
6. Click on the save and continue below on the right hand side of the screen. If you want to add another college, then click on the save & add another number icon.
7. Here you will need to enter all of your personal information.
8. Now you need to read the information about the Secondary School report. Click on the option you want.
9. Put your e-mail and password you will use to log into Docufide.
10. After that, you will be able to use Docufide.

OPINION

ed board discusses how to cope if your candidate loses election

page 3a
issue 1 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Senior Parking Hysteria | John McCain | Barack Obama

Friday, September 12, 2008

Senior parking plan successful despite registration frenzy

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

"I am going to go crazy if I hear that bell again." When the one-minute bell first started, many complained about how annoying it was: But a few months and now only a year later, everyone, or at least most people, enjoy the reminder. It seems that each year several new rules, procedures, and policy changes come into affect, with one of biggest changes this year has been the assigned parking.

When the newsletter first came, people had a million questions about how the process would work, with some students taking the situation as far as to popular Facebook forums. Do only seniors get spots in the senior lot? How are the spots divided?

When people found out it was on a first come first serve basis, there was a morning rush to registration like in no year past. Coming in early one day for a good parking spot sounds a lot better than coming in early for over 180 days. Despite the havoc and the questions, the new system seems to have worked thus far.

The assigned parking system provides a security to seniors that has not been there in previous years. Last year, juniors with fake passes parked in the senior lot, and seniors who got to school later had to park out not in the junior, but the sophomore lot. With assigned parking, all seniors get spots in the designated senior lot, and each spot is accounted for, preventing last year's feudal parking. The only ones that could be complaining are those who can no longer make money off of fake passes.

Whether it's real, or just mental, assigned parking seems to provide a sense of security when parking beside hundreds of teenagers. It seems like everyday there are at least two or three incidences that are seconds, or less, away from an accident. No one can deny or fix the frenzy of a hundreds of students leaving school. However, assigned parking seems like a unit of order in the craze of after school driving.

As a senior it is difficult to see all of the changes that limit what we can do in our final year of high school; no more field trips, extra athletic transportation fees, and no more "college visit" days for ISTEP to name a few. While these may not be under the control of our high school administration, one thing they have done to make our senior years more enjoyable and convenient is assigned parking.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

BY THE NUMBERS

407 available senior parking spots
501 seniors in 2008-2009 class
81% of senior class can fit in lot

Ed board: remember that we are all Americans at the end of the day

The pendulum of power in Washington promises a sizable amount of unhappiness with the results of each election, and this year is no different. The defeat of an inspiring candidate will infuriate an already fiercely rancorous Democratic party. On the other hand, many conservatives question the ideological loyalty of the Republican candidate, John McCain. In retrospect, if so many Republicans are unhappy with their candidate, how did McCain get to be the nominee? Society is fed up with partisan politics, a frustration that both candidates try to capitalize on. People were drawn into a candidate who could put country above party when, most likely, their attraction was more from a personal hesitancy to completely associate with one party. They forgot to look at the issues and were just happy to not confine themselves to what many deemed a one-party man. If you don't associate with a party, you can never be wrong. You don't have to proclaim an opinion, let alone a well-reasoned one.

With some Republicans unhappy, no matter which candidate wins, and Democrats ready to blow if Obama loses, the aftermath of the election is potentially explosive. If your candidate loses this election, all hope is not lost. Pay attention to local elections. National movements can start with party progress in your communities. Stay informed on the issues. Care enough to form an opinion on them and be able to make a judgment so that you don't end up with candidates that you later find you completely disagree with. Take responsibility for change. If you support an issue, get involved in charities or organizations who actively work to make that difference.

What made this country great was our undying commitment to the principles of freedom, our uncompromising ultimatum of liberty or death, and, more importantly, our ambition to actually achieve those dreams. Private charities mitigate poverty, workers make the economy function, revolutionaries bring about change, and soldiers keep us safe. Ultimately, it is the constituency that runs the country. The president is solely there to ensure that we have the freedom to do so.

In the end, make it as it should be: A country ruled by the people.

FEMA, FERA: Is it all worth it?

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Hurricane Gustav ripped across the Gulf of Mexico and the over-hyped storm passed over as a category one, with out much damage to the Gulf coast. Despite the outcome of the hurricane, there is much to learn on how much one uncontrollable natural disaster can affect politics.

The hurricane became a battle of political positioning, and Democrats viewed it as a gift from God. Democratic National Convention chairman Don Fowler said that the hurricane hitting on the first day of the Republican National Convention showed "God is on our side." Even film maker Michael Moore said, "Gustav is proof that there is a God in heaven."

Celebrating a nominee, rather than 'paying attention' to the oncoming hurricane, would tarnish the Republicans' image. To avoid the nitpicking media, the opening day was scrapped, speeches were canceled or rescheduled. With no disastrous hurricane or bad response by the government, the Convention seemed to be more than successful in presenting the compassionate side of the Republican Party.

However, as we see natural disasters becoming such a major part of politics, the role and responsibility of government in such crises must be examined. Today it may seem that it is the duty of the government; however, fifty years ago, very few would believe the same. Over the last several decades we have seen a major growth in the hand of the government in our society. In fact, the federal organization that is responsible for preparing and relief of natural disasters, Federal Emergency Management Agency, was not formed until 1979. The Army Corps of Engineers wasn't given the responsibility of building levees, until several years after its foundation in 1775.

The bureaucracy apparent in our government makes it inefficient in providing relief for natural disasters. Our government is a democratic republic, not a communist government, and although partially, is not wholly socialistic. This means that the function of government is not in building an economy or in rebuilding a city, but in stimulating economic growth and, in this situation, stimulating relief and rebuilding. Prior to the succession of domestic programs, the government stimulated relief through waivers of tariffs and duties to promote those roles from the private sector.

Crises like Katrina led many to place the blame on the government, rather than accepting it for what it was: a tragic but uncontrollable natural disaster. The rising deficit is a problem; however, it is domestic spending programs like FEMA and USACE that overextend the hands of the federal government. The question that faces us is not only should the federal government be involved directly with natural disaster relief, but if it can.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL
HALEY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
ANDREW WEISS

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
ZACH VESSELS

DESIGNERS
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER
STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

Mr. Peeper shares stories from his summer in Central America, 6a

page 5a
issue 1 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Jan Förster & his family

Evan Hanley in Germany

Mr. Peeper in Nicaragua

Friday, September 12, 2008

HOME *away from* HOME

Foreign exchange student Jan Förster notes differences in German, American lifestyle

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
LIFE EDITOR

To attend Homestead, one has to live within the Southwest Allen County borders. Jan Förster (12) calls home an apartment 4,232 miles away.

Having traveled this distance from Cologne, Germany, Förster is one of several foreign exchange students at Homestead. With his primary language being German, he is also fluent in French and English.

"We have to learn [English]," Förster said. "We don't have a choice. I've known it since fourth grade."

Learning all of the ins and outs of a new school may be difficult, but Förster has his house-brother Evan Hanley (12) to help him around.

Hanley, along with his parents, have taken Förster into their home for his year-long stay. With Hanley having two older siblings, Förster has already experienced new things.

"[At home] it's only my mom and me," Förster said. "So here, it's more."

Along with the variation in family life that Förster is experiencing, his new American school is proving to be very different than his previous school, Max-Ernst-Gymnasium.

"At my school in Germany, we don't have a cafeteria," Förster said. "[Students] get two breaks during the day; one after first and second period, and one after third and fourth. They were building a cafeteria before I left, so hopefully when I get back it'll be finished."

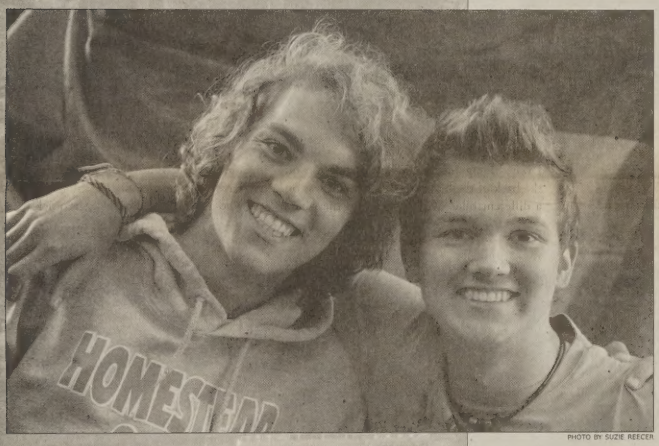


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Above: Evan Hanley (12) and his family are hosting German exchange student Jan Förster (12) for the school year. Background Picture: The Kölner Dom Cologne Cathedral in Köln, Germany.

"I think it's just going to a new place that is the exciting part."

JAN FÖRSTER (12)
Exchange Student

While hosting an exchange student is an experience in itself, Hanley has also had the opportunity to travel to Germany as an exchange student for his entire junior year of high school.

"I went to school in Karlsruhe," Hanley said. "I lived in Linkenheim-Hochstetten. Karlsruhe is the size of Ft. Wayne, but Linkenheim-Hochstetten is only about 1,200 people, or a small village. But there was a nice street car to take into the city, and it'd go every half hour, so it wasn't hard to get into the city."

Public transportation is vastly different between the two countries; a problem Förster still struggles with.

"I'm just missing public transportation, because I don't have a car and a license," Förster said. "Back home I would call friends and we would meet in the city and get ice cream or go to a park, or go back to a friend's house."

With something as simple as transportation being different, major differences in housing between Linkenheim-Hochstetten and Ft. Wayne are not surprising.

"In my town we had housing ordinances," Hanley said. "You could not change anything to the outside appearance of your house without sending it into the town council."

Karlsruhe is only 100 miles north of Germany's southern border, but Hanley insists that it is nothing like the typical stereotype of southern Germany.

"Bavaria is what people think of when they think of Germany: lederhosen, bratwurst and sauerkraut," Hanley said. "That's really only [in Bavaria], and everywhere else in Germany is nearly embarrassed. It's kind of like Texas and the U.S."

Class schedules in Germany consist of 15 classes a week, making Homestead's workload less significant. But, for Förster, vacations in the States are scarcer than he is used to.

"This year [in Germany] school started Aug. 11 and ends mid-July," Förster said. "We get two weeks of break in autumn, two weeks around Christmas, two weeks for spring and six weeks in summer."

Although the classes are more numerous in Germany, they are not necessarily more difficult.

"[Classes] were easier [in Germany] than the most advanced classes that you can take at Homestead, but I think they were harder than the basic classes," Hanley said. "If students wanted their classes to be more difficult at Homestead, than you can level up. If classes were too easy in Germany, then they were just too easy."

Another difference between Homestead and schools abroad are the freedoms students are allowed.

"We had much more freedom than you have here," Förster said. "You could come late without getting in trouble, or eating and going to the restroom. For example, if someone said they had to go [to the bathroom] ten times in the period, the teacher would say, 'What are you doing there?' But going once is okay."

While students here have sports practices to prepare for games, after school clubs are much different in Germany.

"We don't really have school teams. We have gym class once or twice a week and that's it," Förster said. "[Students] in Indiana are more competitive than [Germans] are. We can live with playing a game for fun, and here it's more like people have to want to be better than anyone else."

While going to a new country for a year leaves you with many experiences, it is difficult to narrow down what makes one event better than another.

"I think it's just going to a new place that is the exciting part," Förster said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JAN FÖRSTER

Creating 'a greener world for the future'

Student created clubs Environment Evolved, Green Beings of Tomorrow work towards preserving enviornment

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

People are constantly reminded how harmful today's lifestyle is for the environment. The ozone is disappearing and global warming is a prominent subject, not only in scientific communities, but also in classroom discussion. One person who decided to help the environment is Bri Bardonner (10).

Bardonner, president and CEO of an organization called Environment Evolved, or EnEvo, was prompted to help the environment when she saw Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" and realized how carbon dioxide is affecting the environment, along with seeing trees being cut down in West Virginia.

"I've always been a sort of tree hugger" Bardonner said. "I really wanted to create a world that people our age will be able to live in." According to Bardonner, EnEvo should be "up and running" by the end of the first semester.

At the moment, there are no organized meetings or meeting places. The organization's main source of communication is their website, www.enevo.org. The site contains tips on how to be eco-friendly and information about EnEvo. The organization's last fundraiser was Summer Bash, which hosted a pro-economy party with live music, food and tips on how to recycle, which almost a hundred people attended. The organization is focused mainly on Homestead because it is a locally based organization and Homestead is "where [it has] been made;" even though EnEvo has heard from people in Muncie, Ind. and Richmond, Va. Bardonner is currently looking for schools which Homestead can use as examples to help become more eco-friendly.

"It's our world now and it's being passed down to us ... we're the ones who need to step up."

BRI BARDONNER (10)
EnEvo President

Another person who is helping the environment is Sam Chapman (12), with her new organization called Green Beings of Tomorrow. Chapman started the organization in August of 2008, and her main focus is recycling and things that can be done easily in everyday life.

"There are so many things to recycle; especially in the cafeteria," Chapman said. She considers Homestead to be eco-friendly "to some extent," but there is "no incentive to recycle."

"Homestead does recycle, but other then that does not really do that much environmentally" Cindy Fitt, Secretary of Guidance said. Like EnEvo, Green Beings does not have organized meetings, but Chapman is starting to "get people involved" and hopes to speak with the mayor and get the community involved.

According to Chapman, "a good incentive for America to recycle is for the government to give tax cuts, or give some kind of incentive to people who do recycle." The Green Beings leader also believes that "fossil fuels are the thing that harm the environment the most, and they create greenhouse gases that cause global warming and make the ozone disappear."

One of Bardonner's problems with Homestead is the amount of plastic foam the school uses on a daily basis "on the lunchroom alone." She has recently discovered a company that makes biodegradable plates that are better for the environment than the plastic foam plates currently used.

"It's our world now and it's being passed down to us," Bardonner said. We're the ones who need to step up."

Enduring the Storm

I love thunderstorms. I could spend hours sitting on my back porch, listening to them. However, although I enjoy the sound of lightening tearing through the clouds and raindrops splattering on the tin roof, I was startled to see the number of people in the Bahamas who were willing to endure last week's Hurricane Hanna.

BY KARA HACKETT
LIFE EDITOR

The thought of living in an evacuated town during a hurricane sounds dreadful, even insane.

Considering this, I was reminded of a man named Dennis. Last summer, I attended a work mission with my youth group in Beverly, Kentucky. On the last night of our trip, he told us a story that he called a true testament to the power of hope. Dennis said that he once knew of a twelve year old boy who was shot in a hunting accident. Immediately rushed to the small local hospital, the child was pronounced dead on arrival. However, doctors began working on him anyway and were able to retain a faint heartbeat that they hoped would be sufficient to send him to the closest large hospital which was better equipped to deal the extent of his injuries. He had several holes in his heart and lungs, and honestly, they did not think he would even survive the ambulance ride, but he did.

The doctors at the large hospital began working on the child and soon reported to his parents that he had lapsed into a comatose state. As his mother sat beside him, the boy woke up three times in the course of an hour, each time saying, "They're praying for me," then relapsing into unconsciousness. After a few hours, he was able to sustain consciousness for longer periods of time. Before long, the boy was miraculously healed, and the family returned home. To their astonishment, they were informed that churches of all denominations had gathered in an hour long prayer session during the same hour in which boy awoke three times, claiming to hear their prayers from his hospital bed. I was astounded.

After literally coming back from the dead, the boy was put in a wheelchair for what doctors claimed would be the rest of his life. However, after attending therapy sessions for several years, he once again proved himself a medical marvel, overcoming the odds and walking. It was at this point in the story that Dennis said something which caught me off guard: he was that little boy. All along, it was he who had survived the impossible; patiently waiting out the worst storm life could conjure up.

Today, Dennis runs the Red Bird work mission, a camp geared to help local, needy residents build housing additions, decks, and make emergency maintenance repairs. Although Dennis admits that his struggles in life were neither wanted nor anticipated, they have given him an acute understanding of the powers of hope and faith; forces so strong, he could feel them in prayers from thousands of miles away. Perhaps it is that same illogical hope that kept those Bahaman residents from evacuating, and perhaps in a time of political and economic discontent, that hope is all we have left. Although it may seem crazy and even terrifying, we rely on it for the strength to endure.

The most profound experiences in life involve big storms with very little sunshine, but if you look closely, you just might find something beautiful amidst the chaos. After watching a thunderstorm, nothing is more promising than a rainbow painted across the sky. Although it may be small compared to the storm that raged before it, there seems to be a promise of hope somewhere within the hazy colors, helping us accept life as it is, rather than as we would like it to be.

PEEPER'S JOURNEY

Sr. Peeper tells the tale of his summer travels, motorcycle crash in Costa Rica

BY DEREK LUTTRELL
COPY EDITOR

While students and faculty alike envision the summer months ones of relaxation with the occasional daiquiri on the patio, Spanish teacher Señor Peeper packed his bags for the exotic countries of Central America for nearly two months in an undertaking to enhance his knowledge of the Spanish-speaking culture.

Spartana: What was your drive behind spending your entire summer in Costa Rica?

Peeper: I decided to go [to Costa Rica] for several reasons. First, one of my goals is to visit every Spanish-speaking country in the world, and I had never been to Costa Rica before. I also needed to take two graduate classes to renew my teacher's license, so I studied in the University of Costa Rica for one month and lived with a host family. Finally, [Señora] Arias and I are taking a group of HHS students to Costa Rica next summer, and I wanted to get to know the country before traveling there with them. I love traveling and never turn down an opportunity to visit a new place, especially if it is a Spanish-speaking country.

Spartana: Did you travel alone for your studies, or was the trip constructed for a group of Spanish students?

Peeper: I traveled by myself, but met several other Spanish teachers from across the United States in my graduate courses. Throughout the month, we traveled around Costa Rica on the weekends. After my classes ended, two of my friends from college flew to Costa Rica so we could spend two weeks traveling throughout Costa Rica and Nicaragua. We spent most of our time in Nicaragua because we fell in love with that country and its beauty.

Spartana: To what other places throughout Central America did you travel?

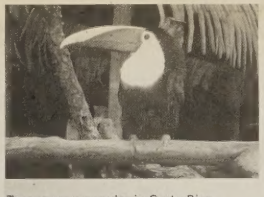
In addition to traveling throughout Costa Rica, my two friends and I visited several cities and towns in Nicaragua, including Leon, Granada, San Juan del Sur, Jinotega, La Isla de Ometepe and others.

> "The scenery in both Nicaragua and Costa Rica is phenomenal... I also met a myrad of kind and compassionate people who made me feel at home in their countries."
>
> **SR. PEEPER**
> Spanish Teacher

Spartana: What were the most interesting occurrences you experienced while on the trip?

Peeper: There were several. The scenery in both Nicaragua and Costa Rica is phenomenal. We visited waterfalls, rain forests, cloud forests, volcanoes, and a plethora of other idyllic locations. Both countries are extremely beautiful. I also met a myriad of kind and compassionate people who made me feel at home in their countries, and helped enhance my Spanish-communication skills.

The most unforgettable part of the trip, however, happened Aug. 6 (my birthday). My friends and I were on the Isla de Ometepe and were involved in a motorcycle accident. I was driving and one of my friends was on the back of the bike. My other friend was on a different bike. We had been on the island for less than one day when we had the accident. We drove off the road and jumped a curb to avoid hitting a bus because the brakes on the motorcycle we had been riding did not function well. I cut my left leg in two spots (the bone was showing) and my friend injured his back. Thankfully there were several people around to help us. They lifted us into the back of a pick-up truck and drove us to a clinic about 15 minutes away because the hospital was about an hour away. We spent the night in this clinic and were transferred back to the mainland the next day to be treated at a hospital. We had to spend another day in this hospital for treatment. We eventually decided to return to Costa Rica because our flight departed from there. We returned to San José Aug. 8 but it was going to cost more than $1,000 to change our flights. So, we had to stay in San José until Aug. 10, when we flew home. Thankfully, we're both recovering and will be back to normal soon, but it was a scary and unforgettable experience. We met so many kind people in the hospitals who took care of us … and we didn't have to pay anything for the medical care. I never imagined being involved in a motorcycle accident in Nicaragua, and I never thought I would spend two days in a Nicaraguan hospital.



Tucans were popular in Costa Rica

Spartana: What did you gain, personally and professionally, during your travels?

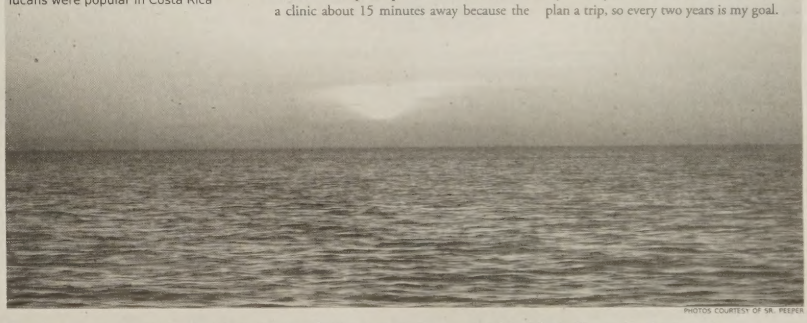
Peeper: Professionally, this trip allowed me to improve my Spanish-communication skills. My courses were all in Spanish, my host family did not speak English, and the other teachers and I made a pact to speak no English while there. The trip also rejuvenated my passion for teaching and gave me several new ideas that I will use with my classes this year. Personally, I truly enjoyed getting to know a new culture and living with a host family. And, I can now cross two more countries off my list; only eight more to visit.

Spartana: Are any similar trips available for students that are looking into expanding their Spanish education?

Peeper: Yes. [Señora] Arias and I are taking a group to Costa Rica in June 2009. We still have some open spots for the trip. Anyone who is interested should see us quickly, as space is limited.

Spartana: How long have you been a part of these summer trips? How much longer do you plan on continuing the international study program?

Peeper: We took a group of students to Mexico in 2007. In 2009, we will go to Costa Rica. I would like to take students abroad every other year. It takes about 18 months to plan a trip, so every two years is my goal.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SR. PEEPER

Sunset seen on a ferry ride to the Isla de Ometepe in Nicaragua, Sr. Peeper also visited Costa Rica during the summer

Teens head to theaters over summer, see "super" movies

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
WRITER

This summer at the movies, everything was super.

Superheroes graced the screens in "Iron Man," "The Incredible Hulk," "Hancock" and "Hellboy II: The Golden Army." Teenagers flocked to these films, bringing in massive profits for the Hollywood studios.

Conquering all the other superheroes at the box office was "The Dark Knight," the latest Batman adventure. Six weeks after first showing its muscle, "The Dark Knight" has grossed more than $500 billion domestically, according to boxofficemojo.com, and continues to rank with the top weekly movies as September begins.

Even though overall movie attendance was lower than usual this summer, ticket sales and overall profits rose due to increased ticket prices and more movie show times. During the summer months, movie theaters offer showings at midnight, which are a big draw for excited teenagers who do not need to worry about school the next day.

When "The Dark Knight" opened at midnight on July 18, all 18 theaters showed the film at Rave Motion Pictures; compared to the usual three or four theaters open at that hour.

"[Ticket takers] had to ask people which theater they wanted," Hali Bickford (12), Rave employee, said. "Batman came out and the whole month after it was still our top seller."

The three-year wait between the first Batman movie and its 2008 sequel also increased anticipation and excitement for the film, starring Christian Bale as the caped crusader. The untimely death of 28-year-old Heath Ledger, who played the Joker, added interest and media attention to the film.

"There was a huge rise from the first [film] because it gained a huge following and attracted a lot of media attention from Heath Ledger's death," Kate Colcord (10) said.

Local movie theaters offered midnight screenings of the film, prompting a diverse crowd of fans to attend the events. According to Rave Motion Pictures assistant manager Joe Dreyer, "The Dark Knight" inspired moviegoers to dress up as their favorite comic book characters.

"You would get everyone from old ladies to eight-year-olds to typical comic book fans," Bickford said. "It appealed across the board."

Other films aimed at teenagers, such as "Tropic Thunder," "Step Brothers," "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2" and "Pineapple Express" did not pack the same box office punch.

"People in Hollywood know they can make more money with a PG-13 or R rated film," Stephen Logomasini (10) said. "That's probably why there were not very many movies for a younger audience this summer."

Studios hope to see the trend of exceptional sales at action movies continue this fall, despite moving "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" to July 2009 to ensure a blockbuster for next summer. Among the adventure films slated for release in the coming weeks that may appeal to teens include the new James Bond movie, "Quantum of Solace," which comes out Nov. 7, and "Eagle Eye," starring Shia LaBeouf, opening Sept. 26.

SPORTS

doctors at football games prove valuable for injury treatment, 7a

page 6a
issue 1 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Boys & Girls XC

Phelps Food Challenge

Football injuries helped

Friday, September 12, 2008

Freshmen effort aids golf team with strong first showings

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

Living in the shadow of one of the best golfers in the state is not easy. For Jasmine Jennings (9), it may be easier than one thinks. Jennings's older brother, Albert Jennings (11), placed 9th in the state finals last year, and his presence has helped her greatly.

"It's great having my little sister play for Homestead as well. We are able to give each other pointers and I'm able to prepare for what it takes to play and be great at the varsity level," Jennings (11) said.

The relationship between the siblings is solid because the game of golf has brought them closer together as a family.

"I like having Albert around. He jokes around all the time, but when he is serious he helps me a lot," Jennings (9) said.

Jennings (9) is one of two freshmen on the girls' golf team this year, along with Karley Dobis (9). An additional bright spot on the golf team is another underclassman, Brianna Blumenhurst (10). Like Jennings (9), the game of golf also runs in her family. Brianna's cousin, Amanda Blumenhurst, plays golf at Duke University. She is also one of the shining stars on the college and amateur tours.

"It feels great to make the team as a freshman because not a lot of freshmen make varsity. It's a good feeling to know that people see you as one of the freshmen who were lucky enough to make the team," Jennings (9) said.

A senior, a junior, a sophomore and the pair of freshman phenoms make up the five-girl roster. The number one golfer on the team is Taylor Lamphier (11), who played a pivotal role in the team's run last year. The number two spot belongs to the lone senior on the squad, Ashley Heath (12). Blumenhurst claims the number three spot on the team, while Dobis and Jennings (9) round out the team at the number four and five spots, respectively.

The golf team has had a successful season so far. Before the school year, the Lady Spartan golf team participated in the Homestead Invitational, where they placed second behind only the Lady Barons of Dekalb. Their record this season is a solid 4-2, losing to Northrop by one stroke and then to Dekalb by a few more. On September 2, they hosted their rival Carroll and won by a convincing 20 strokes.

Heath shot a team low 42 and ended up placing second in the tournament behind Carroll's number one golfer by one stroke. Jennings (9) placed in the top five, in just her sixth competition of the year.

"I just want to help the team become better so we will have a great season," Jennings (9) said.

If the Lady Spartans keep up this pace, their goal of winning and having a great season can and will be easily reached.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Taylor Lamphier (11) follows through on a put at Orchard Ridge.

The team salutes the crowd after their game.

trailblazers

Baseball earns runner-up at state, looking to build on success

BY JOE HANAUER
DESIGNER

June 14, 2008 marked the end of a historic run for the varsity baseball team. Playing in Homestead's first team sport state championship since the 1998 varsity football team, the Spartan baseball team came up just short of bringing home the ever-elusive state championship trophy back to Southwest Allen County. However, this exciting state run may, in fact, have an even bigger impact on other Spartan athletic programs.

Having senior leaders such as Ryan Wright ('08), Ryan Trieglaff ('08), Travis Carsten ('08), and Bob Glover ('08), as well as five other seniors, also helped turn the group into a hard-nosed, competitive team.

The Spartans played the season looking much more mature than the fellow competitors. Sotir had taught them how to fight back and not give up when losing a game. Carsten, Glover, and Patrick Veerkamp (12) led the team in pitching; all three looking untouchable throughout most of the season. After winning the conference title, the team picked up some momentum and won the Sectional and Regional championships behind the all-around great pitching from the staff and the power hitting of Wright.

With family and friends in attendance for the Semi-State championship at Crown Pointe, not even some poor weather could slow down the team. After a rain delay, Mother Nature gave the Spartans a sunny day, and perfect conditions to take on Crown Pointe. With the game going back and forth throughout, the Spartans fought through the adversity and won the game, advancing to the State championship.

To prepare for Victory Field, the minor league stadium in which the game was held, Sotir had the team practice at Memorial Stadium, home of the Fort Wayne Wizards, for the days leading up to the game. Their opponent was Decatur Central. With Carsten on the mound, the Hawks went on top early and never looked back. With some untimely hits, errors and long fly balls, the Spartans could not prevail, losing the game 7-2.

Now that baseball season is over, other members from varsity sports look at how the baseball team affected their beliefs about post-season games.

"Knowing what we have to do to get [to the State championship game] is huge. I think it gives us a lot more confidence next year." Logan Laughlin (12), member of the baseball state runner-up, said.

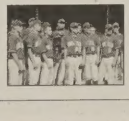
The real question is whether this game can prove to be a stepping stone for other sports to reach the pinnacle of their season.

"I sure hope that this gets all our athletes to try to get to the point of becoming a championship winning Spartan." Drew Sery (10), a Spartan basketball player, said.

Getting to the State championship still has even more long term benefits. With Homestead making their post-season run, college scouts received a chance to see the ability that Homestead athletes have.

Weaver and Veerkamp are two players from the team who are getting looks from colleges about playing baseball. The success on the field, as well as hard work off of it, has led to the interest from schools. Veerkamp has orally committed to Notre Dame while Weaver has received interest from Indiana, Indiana State, and Evansville.

With many sports winning the conference championship, the baseball team provided hope to all teams. They showed that reaching the state championship can be done. Now, winning the championship is the next step.


After receiving their team trophy, the Spartans smile for a quick snapshot.

Baseball team members earned their first ever state patch, with runner-up.

Laughlin, Barnes propel football team to quick 2-1 season beginning

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

A new season brings new expectations. The school year had not even started yet and opposing teams were already marking their calendars for their match up against the Spartan football team. Not only will the team be expected to win another Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) title, a few of the players are expected to perform well on the field too.

After narrowing down his choice of colleges, linebacker Jordan Barnes (12) accepted a scholarship offer to play football at the University of Michigan. Since his commitment, Barnes has been receiving both praise and criticism on becoming a Wolverine. After speaking to his recruiting agent and Michigan Head Coach Rich Rodriguez, Barnes received the offer from the university on June 4th and gave his verbal commitment.

"I talked to Coach [Rodriguez] and he talked about the program and being close to my hometown of Detroit," said Barnes. "He also told me I would be able to compete for a starting spot which was a huge factor for me."

Most of his critics claim that Barnes will not make the final roster next fall or see the field if he even gets that far. Barnes, on the other hand, is not listening to the negative comments he has heard since he committed.

"It really does not bother me," said Barnes. "I just got to do what I got to do."

Barnes is not the only Spartan who caught the eye of some Division I programs. Quarterback Logan Laughlin (12) has been contacted by Iowa State and Eastern Michigan. Laughlin has not yet committed to a school.

"The next round of letters will be beginning soon," said Laughlin. "I am going to wait until all the offers are mailed to me before I make a decision."

Head Coach Chad Zolman is no stranger to having his players go on to play at the college level. Kevin Mitchell ('04), a former defensive back for the Spartans, recently graduated from the University of Illinois after playing cornerback under Coach Ron Zook.

"It is a tribute to them. They worked hard to get to where they are," said Zolman. "They have been putting the team first which has gotten the team in the press."

The Spartans found redemption in week one after beating rival Huntington North in a lopsided 55-21 game. Laughlin picked up where he left off last season, throwing for 294 total yards and five touchdown passes.

"Obviously beating Huntington North felt good after they beat us twice last year," said Laughlin. "We used the losses as motivation to come out and win."

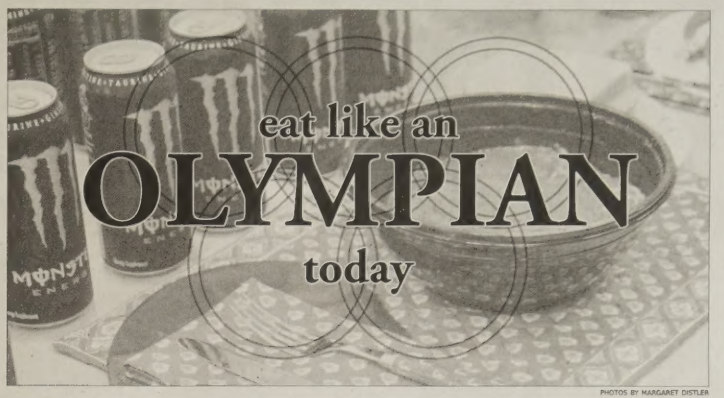
Arguably, the surprise player of the game was Steven Espinosa (9) who contributed three scores, one on a kickoff return to start the second half.

"Our original plan was to keep [Espinosa] with the other freshman," said Zolman. "When we tweaked our offense, he fit within the scheme."

In week two, the Spartans slipped against Warsaw with a 22-29 defeat. The team got away from the fundamentals and the Tigers took advantage of.

However, the team rebounded with a dramatic 20-19 victory over conference rival East Noble the following week.

With the season still young, the team looks forward to a favorable schedule that consists of mostly home games. With the expectations to win another conference crown and to play well every Friday night, the Spartans are poised to have another successful season.



PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Five athletes try to complete lunch of Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps

Empty cans were smashed on the table, vomit was floating in the porcelain water of the toilet, and kids were clutching their stomachs trying to fight back the nauseating feelings of having too much. Does this sound familiar to anyone? Unless you have eaten the 3,500 calorie lunch of Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps recently, this scenario should sound as foreign as a good tan is to a NASCAR fan. To Kate Bienz (12), Harry Foster (12), Chris Warren (12), Brady Gerber (10), and Katrina Schreiber (10), this scenario became a reality.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

The challenge: Eat the lunch of Michael Phelps, which comprises of one pound of enriched pasta, two large ham, cheese, and mayonnaise sandwiches and 1,000 calories of energy drink. The contestants: Five Spartan fall sport athletes, in this case being one football player (Foster), two soccer players (Bienz and Warren) and two cross country runners (Gerber and Schreiber). Spontaneity, over-confidence, and stomach capacity were big determining factors on who was among the lucky to be chosen.

The cha-chings of the cash register kept going off as I paid $50 for the Monster--each person was expected to drink five--and $40 for six pounds of pasta carried out from Fazoli's. The more money was being taken from my wallet, the more I was thinking I better see someone puke to make this project worth it.

At approximately 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, the contestants arrived with a combination of anxious, unsuspecting and excited looks on their mugs. Those looks changed to fear as the twenty five black Monsters stared back at them.

"I heard about a guy who got Type 1 Diabetes after drinking ten Monsters in one day," Foster said, looking somewhat frightened.

"Fantastic! At least I'll have a good story if nobody regurgitates this food. This makes things even more interesting," I thought, secretly hoping that would not happen in my kitchen.

After each person told me they were beyond hungry, I allowed the festivities to begin. For the first couple of minutes, pleasantries were exchanged between the contestants. Bienz told Foster this looked like an average meal for the 6'4", 315 lb. football player, Schreiber, who brought along Crysta Maniscalco (10) for apparent moral support, bragged about her ability to eat food quickly, and Gerber predicted he would drink four Monsters and save one for later. The food started to disappear and, to some, the regular meal wasn't good enough. Foster asked for hot sauce for his sandwiches and Schreiber asked for salt for her pasta.

About twenty minutes later, the participants began to slow down and the looks of sickness began to appear on their faces. The thought of someone throwing this food was becoming a growing hope in my mind. Gerber rushed to the bathroom at one point and my spirits soared. That was, until, he told me it was only for an emergency 'dump,' so to say. Apparently he received a second wind from this act, as he continued to eat with no problem.

In the end, Foster came out victorious, as he ate all of the food and drank two and a half out of five Monsters. Schreiber also finished the food, but knocked back zero Monsters. Bienz, Warren, and Gerber all could not consume the entire menu. Warren, who at one point told me the turtle always wins the race, looked sick to his stomach and now claims the bowl of spaghetti was never-ending.

I thought the excitement had ended by this time, but Maniscalco appeared from the bathroom, telling me she just threw up two Monsters she drank for Schreiber. YES! All of my hopes and dreams for this project came true. I'm sure glad she showed up unannounced.

As the contestants left, Warren summed this experiment up the best.

"Ridiculously impossible," he said. "I'm going to go home and pass out on the couch."

I hope you are happy you gave me the idea for this competition, Phelps. You made my classmates sick, my wallet empty, and the odor of my bathroom can be left to your imagination.

THE CONTESTANTS

katrina schreiber (10)
CROSS COUNTRY

chris warren (12)
SOCCER

kate bienz (12)
SOCCER

brady gerber (10)
CROSS COUNTRY

harry foster (12)
FOOTBALL

THE CHALLENGE

Eat the lunch of Michael Phelps, which comprises of one pound of enriched pasta, two large ham, cheese and mayonnaise sandwiches, and 1,000 calories of energy drink.

Doctors assist football team with on field care

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

Sports medicine plays a huge role in each and every Homestead athlete's life, inside and outside of the school. From inside the school, Fort Wayne Orthopedics offers a trainer (Todd Jenkins) to care for all of Homestead's athletes. Jenkins is at the school before practices in his office and can be found sharing his time between all the Spartan team's practices after everyone has left his office. At home varsity football games, however, Jenkins is not the only person one will find on the sidelines donning the FWO logo.

Since 1993, a specific group of doctors have been splitting up and going to area football games. Each doctor then must work along side the trainer from the school they go to. Usually, the man seen working adjacent to Jenkins on Homestead's turf field is Dr. Jerry Cooper.

The two are truly a team working for the health of another team.

"Any injuries on the field go to Todd. After that, if he needs my help, I assist him in diagnosing the injury, but Todd really is the processor, evaluator, and gatekeeper," Cooper said.

Because of Jenkins, Cooper really only sees a few players per game.

"The number of players I see really depends on the trainer. Todd at Homestead has a high level of confidence and experience so there I usually only see a couple," Cooper said. Luckily, none of those players had broken necks.

"The worst injury from a high school football game I've seen was probably a broken femur or a head injury," Cooper said.

Last season as a junior, Harry Foster (12), was seen by the sideline squad.

"I had injured my knee and because he was a knee surgeon, he helped me out a lot," Foster said.

The Dr. Cooper name has been associated with Homestead football long before the current Dr. Jerry Cooper. His father had been the Dr. Football for Homestead since its beginning. In fact, Dr. Jerry Cooper's father is the one who first organized local physicians to cover area football games. He continued to cover the games well into the 1980's. Since his father's stint as the

Homestead football coverage doctor, 20 years of sports medicine has changed dramatically for the better.

"Our ability to diagnose injuries to things such as shoulders and ACLs now is so much simpler than it was before," Cooper said. "Those kinds of things weren't as recognizable then, and were cause for more invasive surgery than today would call for, and possibly an automatic end to a season for a player."

"Teams used to have to rely on their coaches to care for their players and do things such as ankle tapes and stabilizing practice injuries. Coaches were also in charge of determining whether or not a player was ready to play again or not," Cooper said.

With the help of the sideline squad (Jenkins and Cooper) now, coaches are able to keep their minds on the game and let injuries be taken care of by true professionals.

The dedication from Cooper and Jenkins to the Spartan varsity football team goes beyond the call of duty. Jenkins even attends away games with the group.

"I don't do this because I went there or because my kids go there now, I've been coming to the games with my dad since I was in the 7th grade," Cooper said. "My group and I cover all of the football games because it has been part of our commitment for 20 years."

Cross country finds stride in young runners

Underclassmen commitment overshadows injuries on both rosters, girls place top 20 in recent state rankings

PHOTO BY CAROLYN MUTTON

Lauren Purlee (9) sticks close behind Meghan Terrell (12) at the DeKalb meet. Both placed in the top 10 last weekend at the Marion Invational at Indiana Wesleyan.

BY ANDREW WEISS
ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR

With the boys and girls cross country teams loaded with fresh underclassmen talent, both teams are looking to go further than last year's top twenty performance at semi-state. Leading the teams are upperclassmen Evan Hanley (12), Colin Lyman (12), Donny Heath (11), Meghan Terrell (12), Sara Hoppe (11) and Ali Kattman (12), but a group of select underclassmen have also played a large role in the teams' success.

While the team has not been ranked in state thus far, they had impressive individual and team showings throughout the first few weeks of the season. Homestead finished third in the Huntington North Invitational, behind state-ranked Carroll (2nd) and Huntington North (13th). Individually, four of seven runners on the varsity team cracked the top twenty-five, including two top ten finishes.

"[The Huntington North Invitational] was probably the best we have run as a team this year," Kodi Mullins (11), who finished third, said.

Recently, Homestead finished third behind conference opponents Norwell and Bellmont at the Bellmont Conditioner. While the pair of Mullins and Hanley finished first overall, the rest of the pairs struggled.

"[Kodi and I] were expecting to win, but our team did not run as well as we had hoped," Hanley said.

Although the season has been an up and down ride, the team has potential to repeat the success that last year's team had at semi-state.

"This year's team has the ability to be better than last year's squad, but injuries and a couple of our top runners from last year not running much in the summer have put us behind," Coach Dick Shenfeld said.

As for the girls team, many freshmen have made an immediate impact on the team along with the upperclassmen. Kayla Lubkert (9), Lauren Purlee (9), Kaylin McCormick (9) and Haley Havert (9) have all spent at least one meet on the Varsity squad.

"The four freshmen have really helped take our team to the next level," Meghan Terrell (12) said.

Despite a knee injury to three-year varsity runner Carolyn Mutton (11), the team has been impressive early this year. As of September 1, the Lady Spartans are ranked sixteenth in the state, second only to Carroll in the surrounding area. A second and first place finish in the Huntington North Invitational and the Bellmont Conditioner, respectively, has Coach Sara Wyss impressed.

"The Huntington North Invitational was a positive experience, as we tried to use it to give our younger runners more exposure to the five kilometer race," Wyss said.

The win at the Bellmont can be attributed to the legs of Hoppe and Purlee, who finished first, and Terrell and Lubkert, who finished second.

With the boys and girls seasons just getting under way, there is promise and potential for these squads to make a run at state and improve on last season's finish in Semi-State.

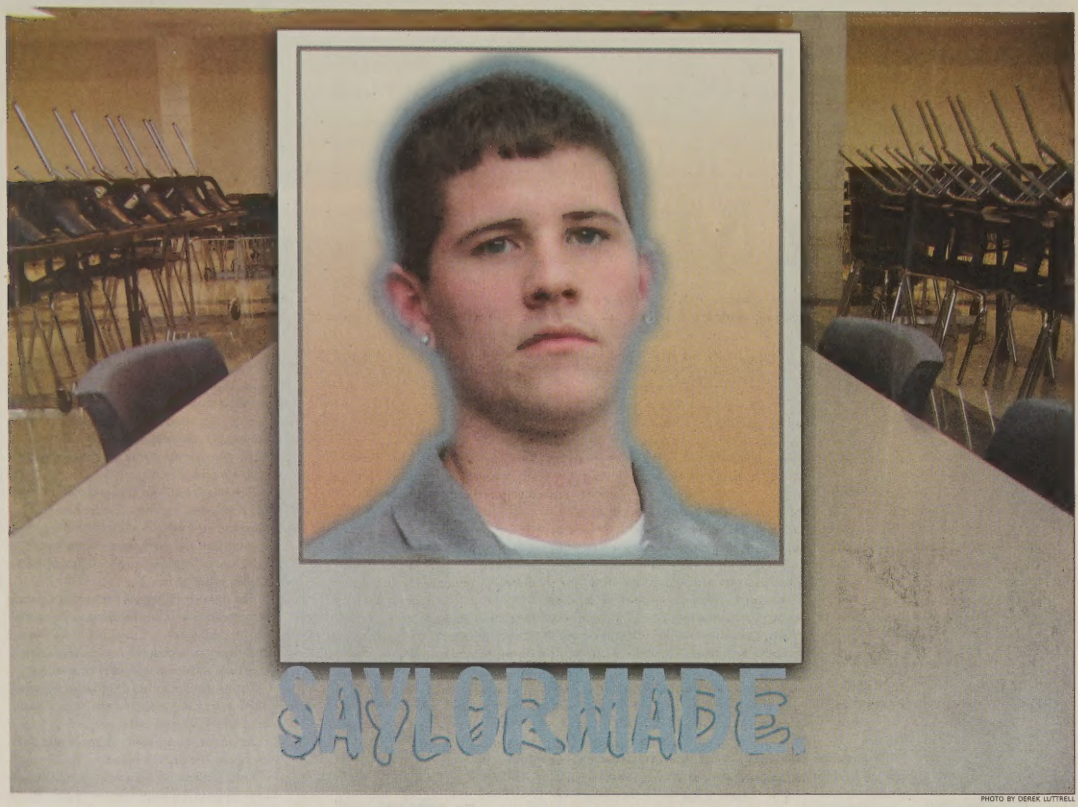


PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

Stories emerge in aftermath of end-of-school food fight

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Cameron Saylor (11) waited for the air horn. He really did.

The honk of that rumored air horn, though, in the last five minutes of the A lunch module on Thursday, May 29, never came. In place of the expected hoot erupted a raucous applause that prompted Saylor, clad in a solid red tee shirt, to take matters into his own hands.

"They just started clapping," Saylor said, "and then it started getting real fast like somebody was going to throw something. That was the high point of it and nobody did anything."

Slouched in a wrought iron chair at the Starbucks of Coventry Village, Saylor reflects on those final moments of his sophomore year in high school with unabashed solemnity and modest wit -- not necessarily in that order. Although students do not credit him with initiating the food fight that resulted in the punishment of more than half a dozen Homestead participants, his tabletop prance remains a staple of conversation in the hallways.

"[The administration] said I was running around throwing five different plates of food, screaming," Saylor said. "I never screamed or anything. I threw one plate of food and that's it" -- he pauses for a moment and resumes with a slight grin creeping up his face -- "I might've picked up a tray when I was running, but that was it" -- he pauses again -- "Like two plates tops."

Regardless of the speculation that surrounded his stunt in the days to follow, Saylor's punishment stuck: he would be charged with disorderly conduct and ordered to start his junior year at the Allen County Juvenile Center. Out-of-school suspensions were handed out to six other students, and a 15-year-old girl was charged with disorderly conduct as well. The girl's mother declined to allow her daughter to comment on the topic.

Cameron Saylor (11) may be back at Homestead as early as January.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PATRICK SVITEK

> "Walking [at graduation] signifies the scholarly work done in the past four years... should one video really be able to put me on the same level as students who have been expelled?"
>
> **ERIN QUINN ('08)**
> Recorded video of food fight

As details emerged, Saylor's fellow students watched wide-eyed as reality began to set in. Social networking groups surfaced, along with outcries that the administration's punishments were too harsh, considering Homestead seniors let rubber balls descend upon unknowing students only one day earlier.

Such a comparison, assistant dean Tom Rhoades argues, is invalid.

"The senior prank was harmless," Rhoades said. "It didn't destroy property... The seniors even went as far to make sure the balls were non-latex so they didn't [affect] students' allergies."

One former senior who helped coordinate the prank, Erin Quinn ('08), uploaded a video of the culinary melee to popular clip-sharing site YouTube. In contrast to the rubber ball drop, her amateur film work was met with less lenience.

"From what I understand," Quinn said, "[Superintendent] Dr. Smith had expressed the desire to punish everyone involved, including the senior who had taken the footage and tarnished public opinion of the school."

Smith originally contended that she should not walk at graduation as a penalty for her behavior. Quinn asserts that it was Homestead administrators who defended her against the superintendent. Dr. Smith dined with Quinn as a Student Rotarian only approximately a year earlier and apologized in person for canceling the girls' basketball Senior Night when she was captain.

"[It was] not so flattering," Quinn said.

Eventually, she removed the video from YouTube, which had amassed a view count in the thousands. She graduated at the same time as her peers and claims she has kept the video off of the Internet since the ceremony "mostly on honor."

Even with a three-day period deemed "Prank Week" by '08 alumni in the past, assistant dean Rhoades does not plan to let nacho cheese stain wall tiles again anytime soon. Since the beginning of the new school year, approximately 25 new cameras have been added to the building, more than half of which are in the cafeteria. He believes that student morale is increasing -- and behavioral incidents decreasing as a result.

"The difference between this year and last year is like night and day," Rhoades said. "People are at ease. Students are doing a phenomenal job with everything."

In the mean time, Saylor is counting down the days until Mar. 31 -- the date in which he bids adieu to his parole officer, assuming his probation period is conflict-free. Until then, he meets on a weekly basis with the officer to submit urine samples. If the results of his reevaluation in mid-January come back positive, students can expect to see his face in the hallway as soon as the start of second semester.

Mulling over the last three months, Saylor appears to be honestly remorseful. His voice is restful, almost drowned out by the hissing espresso machines steaming milk in the background. As the discussion concludes, he shares one last sentiment.

"I learned my lesson," Saylor said. "I just hope they let me back. I'll never do anything like that... Ever again" -- and for the first time, he sits completely straight in his chair -- "Just write something about that."

Consider it done.

"NOW I'M STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN TO ME AGAIN.

IT DEFINITELY WASN'T WORTH IT."

TO CELL AND BACK

Shortly after the food fight, students began circulating videos and images of the incident.

PHOTO BY ANDREW REIMAN

"... the tension broke..."
ERIN QUINN ('08)
Recorded video of food fight

PHOTO BY ANDREW REIMAN

"You can't really prevent these things."
TOM RHOADES
Assistant Dean

PHOTO BY ASHLEY WYSS

"I just felt like having fun."
CAMERON SAYLOR (11)
Student arrested for disorderly conduct

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 2 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Friday, September 26, 2008

MISSING THE POINT

According to the Southwest Allen County Schools Field Trip Procedures for the 2008-09 school year, a non-curricular field trip must meet the following requirements:

OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE ✓

COST PAID FOR BY STUDENTS ✓

AFTER SCHOOL / WEEKEND ✗

REJECTED.

Cedar Point event falls victim to 2008-09 field trip policy

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The annual senior field trip to amusement park Cedar Point is the latest casualty in a series of district-wide budget cuts. The cancellation of the event was announced to student government seniors last Monday.

Student council advisor April Moss estimates that the trip's history spans at least a decade.

"It didn't meet the definition of what that type of field trip should be [taken]," Jim Coplen, Southwest Allen County Schools business manager, said in reference to the event having no academic merit.

Last spring, district administration axed field trips in total, citing costs incurred by transportation and substitute teachers. Moss countered the decision by presenting a plan to the Homestead administration in which students would solely fund the trip. Her strategy, although received warmly at first by Principal Rick Smith, was rejected by the district upon further review.

Despite the disappointment surrounding the cancellation, student government is already planning to rebound, according to executive president Alex DeFreeuw (12).

Cedar Point, continued on 2a

Christopherson pitches reading pilot program

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

Beginning as early as next semester, a new reading comprehension program is going to be put into place. The new Read-180 program, or R-180 for short, is a completely interactive and highly individualized program that will teach students a diverse range of skills, from reading at a more advanced level, to comprehending what they read. Connie Christophersen, English department head, says that the program will be a great supplement to daily English class for students.

R180 COMPONENTS

1. Interactive direction
2. Small group direction
3. Independent reading

"The key to its success is that it's individualized, and incorporates high interest novels," Christophersen said. "Based on how the student responds to the questions, they can go back, using the software, and review and do other things. It's high-tech."

Christophersen says that the program will improve students' reading levels by using three main strategies: interactive direction, small group direction and independent reading.

"During a school day, the student uses Read-180 software, which is one-on-one interactive; there's also small group direction from the teacher, and there's also independent reading. So it's a three-pronged approach," Christophersen said.

Gaining support around the school, Read-180 appeals to the interests of a technological

Reading, continued on 2a

Faculty praise 'one of the best' Homecoming weeks

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

Complete with a series of dress up days, a pep rally, a football game and a dance, Homecoming week gave students an exciting opportunity to have fun while flaunting their school spirit. The festivities began with hippie day on Monday, nerd day on Tuesday, Hawaiian shirt day on Wednesday, blue day on Thursday and finally, gold day on Friday. Coordinated by student government, dress up days allowed students and staff alike to show their spirit in humorous and often unexpected ways.

"Nerd day was amazing," Tyler Martin (12) said. "It was fun to see people step out of their comfort zones."

Donning taped glasses, brief cases and pocket protectors, students who dressed for nerd day received many laughs around the school. Even faculty members, such as history teacher, Jim Schmidt, took part in the amusement.

"I think nerd day was my favorite," Schmidt said. "People didn't recognize me on hippie day because I had hair."

Because dressing out of character was a humorous way to support the school, many people were excited to take part. Nevertheless, for those who did not dress up, seeing those who did was equally entertaining.

"I never had dress up days at any other school before," Rhys Webber (9) said. "That was neat."

Working vigorously to get both students and

Homecoming, continued on 8a

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

BRIEFS

FALL PLAY AUDITIONS

Auditions for the fall play, "You Can't Take It With You," will begin Monday, Oct. 6 through Wednesday, Oct. 8. It is possible to come only one day during the tryout period, and tryouts are open to everyone, regardless of participation in the drama program. Callbacks will be on Thursday, Oct. 9 if needed. Auditions begin promptly at 6:00pm and end at 8:00pm on Monday; however, the Tuesday and Wednesday tryouts start immediately after school, ending at 5:00pm. Please do not be late. Contact Victoria Malooley with additional questions, comments or any details.

UPCOMING BAND CONTESTS

The ISSMA district band competition will be hosted at Homestead next Saturday, Oct. 4 all day on the football field. The event starts at 5 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. This Saturday, the Spartan Alliance Marching Band is competing at Penn High School at 9:14 p.m. The band's theme this year is based on "Magnetism," playing a rendition of "Satellite" by Dave Matthews Band, and their props include giant magnets that move around with the band members during the performance. All of this training and competing continue to bring the HHS band closer to the all-state competition this November.

PHOTO BY M. DISTLER

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Art Club Mural
PAGE 3A, Opinions: Trace the Race, Ed Board, Voter Trends, Government Handouts
PAGE 4A, Life: How to Tailgate, Fort Wayne Mini-Marathon
PAGE 5A, Life: Campus Life and FCA, The True Heroes of the Night
PAGE 6A, Sports: Boys Soccer, Boys Tennis, Girls Volleyball
PAGE 7A, Sports: Full Court Press, Girls Soccer, Season Checkpoints
PAGE 8A, Feature: Homecoming continued, Friday Night Sights

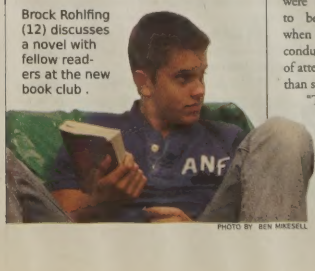
New clubs hurl student literacy into spotlight

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Providing opportunities to share interests and creativity with others, the Anime club and the Book Club are two new clubs available to students. The Book Club was started by Aaron Clark (12), who serves as club president. He created this club because he wanted to get other people's ideas on the books they read. He also wanted anyone who was interested in books to share their ideas with other students.

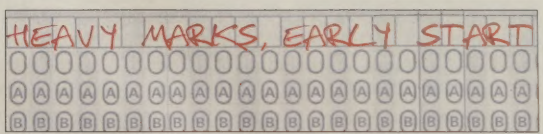
"I want to finally get everyone's points of view from stuff they read," Clark said. "It's really interesting to get biased answers and opinionated answers because you understand people's backgrounds and such. It sounds dumb, but that's why I started

Literacy, continued on 2a



Brock Rohlfing (12) discusses a novel with fellow readers at the new book club .

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL



Controversy continues to follow week of state testing

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Echoing down the halls like clockwork, disgruntled mutters and anxious questions of participating students have typified the week of ISTEP testing for years. However, hallway conversations this year have changed tune. Not only are freshman and sophomores complaining, but upperclassmen have also joined the chorus.

In past years, those not participating in ISTEP testing, including upperclassmen who have already passed the GQE, were not required to be at school when the tests were conducted. Students were granted the privileges of attending job shadows and college visits rather than spending time in class.

"The state of Indiana changed ISTEP testing procedures this past year," Dianne Moake, assistant principal, said. "Only grade ten and those students needing to retest were required to take the ISTEP GQE tests this fall. Because the majority of our students were not involved in testing this year, it was best for non-testing students to continue their academic studies. All students not participating in ISTEP tests are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes."

In regards to the new regulations, students and staff have differing attitudes. While most students are disappointed to be denied days away from the classroom, teachers have few concerns about class attendance during testing week.

> "I feel that many students did not take advantage of the past opportunities for job shadows, but merely took the day off. These opportunities are covered in the... attendance policy, so they can really be done at any time the student chooses."
>
> **DEBRA COSBEY**
> Mild Disabilities Teacher

"I guess I have no objections to the new policy," Debra Cosbey, mild disabilities teacher, said. "I feel that many students did not take advantage of the past opportunities for job shadows, but merely took the day off. These opportunities are covered in the Homestead attendance policy, so [they] can really be done at any time the student chooses."

Because of the changes that coincide with this year's program, upperclassmen can no longer make college visits while other students are testing, but they have many opportunities to do so at any other times during the year. According to the student handbook, "Juniors and seniors are

ISTEP, continued on 2a

Art club mural awaits approval

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

Two years after a mural was painted outside the dance room, the art club has once again decided to have their senior members create a painting in one of the hallways.

Art club sponsor, Sarah Jones, recently had a meeting with Principal Rick Smith and Vice-Principal Jen Bay to discuss the project and to introduce Smith to the process it takes to paint a mural because he was not here when the original mural was painted.

This year's mural will most likely incorporate ideas related to the location of the hallway in which it is painted, just as the first mural did. While the location of the new mural has yet to be determined, some of the artists have already started coming up with concepts that could be used.

Hali Beckford (12) has been an Art Club member her entire high school career. She has been excited by the idea of a senior mural from the time she was a freshman, and she is now ready to execute the project.

"Alyssa [Bolinger (12)] and I were talking, and I'm not sure if we're completely serious

PHOTO BY ZACH VESSELS

about it, but we were thinking like a history re-to counterculture kind of thing," Beckford said. "We have to get it approved by the administration.... We have meeting in a couple of weeks where we're going to sit down and brainstorm other ideas."

And while the seniors painting the mural do have a degree of liberty on what the final product will look like, the ultimate decision on what goes on the wall rests with the administration.

"We view this as kind of a commission, even though they're not getting paid," Jones said. "It's the school's building. The school's paying for the materials. It's just as if someone in the community hired you to paint something. You've got to gage who your audience is, especially with this being a public building."

Though the mural is a chance for the senior artists to leave their mark on the school, it also has a warming effect on the atmosphere.

"I love seeing the dance painting every day," Sam Conner (10) said. "I think it'd be cool to have more of them up. Our school is so white, so it's really nice to have some color on the walls, especially when it's something as beautiful as art."

Although the last mural was painted in the main building, some students have suggested that this year's mural would be a much needed, colorful addition the freshman academy. Nevertheless, because the majority of students do not walk through the academy, it may not be the best choice to attract the most viewers.

"Some people have mentioned the freshmen academy as being a [possible] place because it's very sterile looking," Jones said. "It's [a] very brilliant white. But some of the seniors were more interested in doing it in an area like the commons area where they would actually get to see it more."

The art club was started five years ago by Jones when she first began teaching at Homestead. As membership steadily increased, the group expressed interest in having a project for the seniors that would be on display for the whole school to enjoy.

The first mural was painted by Keith Couture ('07) and Susan Watrous ('07) in the dance hallway. Once the venue was decided upon, Couture and Watrous came up with the composition on their own. After going through a few different drafts with the administration, the final product is now a colorful painting of two dancers on two different colored backgrounds. Under the painting, it reads, "It takes an athlete to dance, but it takes an artist to be a dancer."

While the art club expressed interest in creating another mural last year, the idea never materialized.

"The only reason we didn't have [a mural] last year is because we only had one senior, and she ended up doing co-op so she was never here after school to work on it," Jones said. "With only one person, it makes it a little more challenging."

LITERACY
CONTINUED FROM 1A

book club, just to hear the common man's voice."

Open to everyone, anyone who has in interest in books can join. Meetings are held every Thursday right after school in the IMC until 3:15 p.m.. No commitment is required. Students do not have to attend every single meeting; students can come and go as they please.

In the club, students are not assigned to read any specific book. Instead they are encouraged to read any book they desire as long as it pertains to a common theme. During meetings, they discuss their book and what they thought about it. The president can also suggest books to read depending on what each student is interested in.

"I think [the book club] is a good idea because it's nice to read on your own time, not on other people's time," Morgan Pratt (10) said. "Also, it's nice to read what you want to read, not what others want you to read."

As for the Anime club, Becky Katz (12) is the founder with Wendy Kovach as her sponsor. Katz formed this club so that anyone who is interested in Anime can talk to others about it.

"I know from personal experience that if you don't have many friends who are into Anime, there's not much of an outlet to talk about it," Katz said. "I decided to start this club for this reason. I think it's very important for that outlet to be there for anyone who enjoys Anime."

The Anime club is filled with many activities to keep participants occupied. In the club, people can write their own comics, learn about Japanese Culture, and discuss the latest developments in various Anime series. They will also have a "costume day" where students can dress up as Anime characters. In addition, the club will have a once a month screening during which students can show a series of their Anime drawings to their peers.

Anyone who is interested in Anime can join this club. All students have to do is attend the meetings which are held every Monday after school until around 3:30 p.m. in the IMC all year. Because an astonishing 43 people came to the first meeting, it was pronounced a success.

"I think the Anime club is a great idea because it's so nice to finally find a place where I can actually find people who have the same interest's as me," Evan Sorg (10) said. "I will definitely join the Anime club not only because I like Anime, but also because I think it will be an awesome experience."

CEDAR POINT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

"It won't be that big of a problem," DeFreeuw said. "Two seconds after [Moss] told us, we started coming up with ways to still go."

Smith stresses that the crux of the problem is the state attendance expectation of 180 full school days and the district's changes in field trip procedure. The moratorium details that all non-curricular field trips must be completely paid for by students, not require all students to participate and take place after school or on non-school days. The Cedar Point event, which was held on the Monday after Prom last year, violates the latter restriction and the aforementioned state attendance guideline.

"I think there could be a way we could work around it and still go," Clea Endres (12) said. "Just because they decided to cut the budget shouldn't stop us from going."

Although the policy would allow the field trip to be held on a spring weekend, planning has been put on hiatus since the announcement. The principal admits discussion for alternative year-end events has not begun yet, but continues to praise the class of 2009 for a positive start to the school year.

"It's not a matter of us taking something away from the seniors," Smith said. "I don't want them to think that we're not appreciating how they've been conducting themselves this year."

ISTEP
CONTINUED FROM 1A

allowed three college visits per year, which will not be counted as part of the ten parent/guardian excused absences, provided proper documentation is given to the attendance office on the student's return to school that day or the next day."

Nevertheless, despite the designated college visit days throughout the school year, upperclassmen feel that there is no need for them to continue taking classes during ISTEP because the curriculum seldom advances.

"[Being here for ISTEP] stinks because you just review in every class and I have study hall," Karen Tapia (11) said. "It's pointless."

Because upperclassmen were required to adhere to their regular schedule, testing could not be conducted in homerooms as it has been in years past, cramping large groups of students into congested rooms.

"The ISTEP testing was affected by not being able to use homerooms for testing," Cosbey said. "Larger groupings of students were necessary in areas such as the cafeteria and seminar room. These were not the most ideal test conditions."

In previous years, upperclassmen have been given a morning study hall to fill the time in which freshmen and sophomores spend conducting the ISTEP testing.

"I cannot imagine how a study hall could have been implemented with all ninth, eleventh and twelfth [graders]," Cosbey said, referring to the second addition to the ISTEP policy, which required only sophomores and upperclassmen that have not yet passed ISTEP to test this fall. Freshman will be tested in the spring.

Despite the chaos in the testing rooms, the schedule for those not taking ISTEP was rather normal, helping students feel as though it were a regular week.

"Attending classes without the master schedule changing for students, [and having some students] not taking the test is what I feel is most beneficial, overall," Cosbey said. "In past years, the altered schedule affected all students. This year the schedule was left fairly intact for the students not testing."

Regardless of the perks, most upperclassmen still felt cheated out of valuable time to work on homework and take part in experiences outside the classroom.

"I'd rather be at home getting a head start on my chemistry homework or doing a job shadow," Tapia said. "We're not accomplishing anything."

R180 PROGRAM
CONTINUED FROM 1A

student body. Kelsi Stephens (10) believes that the new program sounds helpful to students, especially because of the technology used to progress students' reading levels.

"I think it sounds helpful," Stephens said. "I've noticed in my English class, people needed help reading, and that's an easier way since it combines technology with learning."

Christophersen was one of several responsible for the idea to bring the new program to Homestead. Run by Scholastic Books, Read-180 was brought up for consideration when she and other department heads went to a reading conference in Orlando this summer.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

"Read-180 was talked about a lot [in Orlando]," Christophersen said. "Then, Mrs. Moake went to a big conference in Washington D.C. in September, and she came back and said, 'You need to check out this Read-180 program.'"

R-180 is based upon tracking the students' progress in their reading abilities; it does this based upon lexile scores. Lexile scores are linked to students' reading level pertaining to the reading levels of specific books.

"A book may be at eight grade reading level or sixth grade reading level, and the book has a lexile score that's tied to grade level," Christophersen said.

"Of course, we're very interested because we do have kids in the school who are very poor readers. We really do believe that if you can read, you really can do almost anything."

CONNIE CHRISTOPHERSEN
English Teacher

"What happens with this program is initially we'll be determining, for example, Student 'X' has a reading level of sixth grade, let's say. The program then uses high interest works, and the student would then be able to track progress from grade level to grade level to grade level."

Christophersen believes that Read-180 will improve students' reading abilities by using its high-tech software to track their progress in several different areas, greatly benefiting them.

"Of course we're very interested because we do have kids in the school who are very poor readers," Christophersen said. "We really do believe that if you can read, you really can do almost anything."

Stephens shares Christophersen's point of view. She thinks that Read-180 will be very beneficial to participating students, improving the most crucial parts of their academic work: test scores.

"I think it will help a lot with our testing scores," Stephens said. "Reading is the basis of most things, and the new program will help improve that, which will improve everything else."

Another enthusiast, Gavin Dambra (11) also believes that the program will have a large impact on students.

"I'm sure it will help out a lot of Homestead students who have trouble with the current reading program," Dambra said.

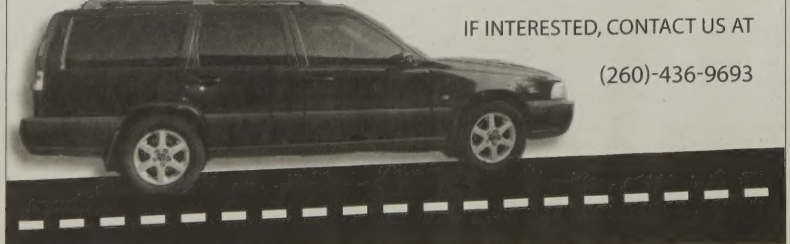
Thanks to Christophersen and others pushing for the program, Read-180 will hopefully be in full swing next semester. Should it be implemented, students who struggle with reading comprehension, and therefore, apply for this program, should expect their reading skills to do a 180.

AUTO FOR SALE

VOLVO XC 70
AWD CROSS
COUNTRY
WAGON

1998, All wheel drive, ABS, 5-passenger, large trunk, very well maintained, maintenance records available, new tires, snow tires on rims included, 5 cylinder, 2.5 L Turbo and more! Plus the safety reputation of Volvo.

125,000 miles----$6,000.00 (Make us an offer!)

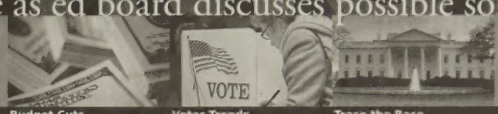


IF INTERESTED, CONTACT US AT

(260)-436-9693

budget cuts continue as ed board discusses possible solutions, 3a

page 3a
issue 2 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814



Budget Cuts | Voter Trends | Trace the Race

Friday, September 26, 2008

Patterns in politics

As election nears, minority voter trends become apparent

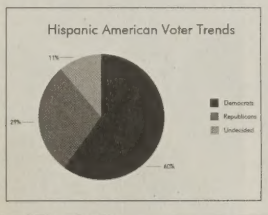
BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

In a presidential election, there is about a 50 percent chance as to whether an eligible citizen will vote, but the question is how many of those individuals vote on a combination of issues, and how many vote based on their judgment of character, race and age? The problem that has become apparent is that Americans tend to lose sight of civic duty, that one's vote is supposed to be geared toward what is best for society on the whole and not only for the present, but also for the future. It is shown that a large group of voters do so based on who will improve their lives the most, who will help their class the most and who will help them now rather than looking toward the future.

In the last decade, presidential elections have been closer than ever, giving more value to even the smallest groups of voters. Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and African Americans all lean heavily toward voting for the Democratic Party, even before Barack Obama came into the picture. One of the main factors that come into play is that the average wage of minority groups is significantly lower. The Democrats appeal to low-income families under the promise of financial and social programs to help a certain one percent of the population. However, this increasingly important portion of eligible voters forgets to examine if those promised changes will do anything to affect the economy. Will a couple of thousand dollars suddenly create the opportunity for a family to rise through monetary classes? Will spending programs provide a better future for the generation after us, or do they simply accept immediate relief masking long-term debt and diminish the concept of equal opportunity?

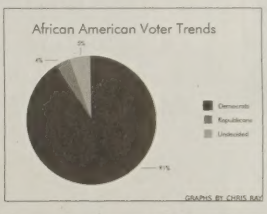
The argument, however, is not limited to those who vote in favor of the Democratic Party; it extends both ways. For example, there are a number of wealthy voters who choose to vote Republican simply because they want more money, rather than understanding the concept that tax breaks on the upper class are meant to trickle down. There are groups of people who vote under the pretense that liberals are radicals or because they cannot see a certain race as a president.

There are some issues where civic duty does not apply, like views on abortion, right to bear arms and rights of imprisoned terrorists. In matters of the economy and division of government powers, voters must place importance to the well-being of the whole, rather than the race or age.



"In the last decade, presidential elections have been closer than ever, giving more value to even the smallest groups of voters."

YOGESH JONNA
Assoc. Opinion Editor

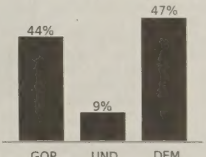


TRACE *the* RACE
presidential election 08

Each issue, the Spartana will cover the Presidential race. Current standings in the Gallup poll, key issues and upcoming events will be reported, along with any miscellaneous news that is useful leading up to the 2008 election.

McCain | Obama
Palin | Biden

Gallup Poll as of 9/23



KEY ISSUES
Firearms- Supports
Stem Cell Research- Supports
Social Security- Supports
Abortion- Opposes

KEY ISSUES
Firearms- Supports
Stem Cell Research- Supports
Social Security- Supports
Abortion- Supports

Ed board: what is the best way to adjust to recent budget cuts?

There is no doubt that the current school year has experienced some of the most drastic changes in our school policy in order to adapt to the decreased funding. Athletic transportation fees, adjustment of bus routes and the elimination of school field trips have been used to decrease the school's expenditures and increase revenues. Indiana high schools are funded from national, state and local resources.

What has allowed our school to be so well-funded over the past few decades has been local resources. As the value of taxable assets of our community is high, a large revenue is received from property and local taxes, even if those tax rates are lower than less wealthy communities. This aspect of Indiana high school funding has allowed the wealth of a community to decide the strength of its education system.

However, the aspect of school funding that has caused problems for our school district has been the funds received from the state and national government. The state government allocates its funds, including those received from the national government based on census poverty data, a large part of which is the number of students who qualify for reduced or free lunches. Because our school district has a small percentage of students receiving those lunches, we receive considerably less funding per student. For 2009, the school district will receive about $5,000 per student, compared to the state average of $5,700.

To address this problem, fewer teachers have had to take on more responsibilities, as unfilled positions have been left alone. We can not sacrifice academic achievement in order to adjust to a budget that is based mainly on the number of people that are poor and the taxable fiscal value of a community

Over the years, the least detrimental way to reduce school expenditures is in the administrative staff. If over the years we continue to limit the number of administrators the school board, we will be able to provide students the same level education, while adapting to and reallocating for the changes in the budget.

Democrats need to reduce handouts, government aid

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

In 1960, Barry Goldwater said, "I feel certain that Conservatism is through unless Conservatives can demonstrate and communicate the difference between being concerned with these problems and believing that the federal government is the proper agent for their solution."

Often criticized for being mean-spirited or heartless, it is important to recognize that conservatives are still concerned for those suffering from socioeconomic forces outside of their control. Where the rift begins to divide us is in who we believe is responsible for aiding those who are down and out. Liberals believe it is the charge of the government. Conservatives disagree with this belief, promoting laissez-faire economy.

Here is the problem with government aid: If donating is mandatory, demanded and distributed by the government, there is no virtue in the act. It is not by choice, sympathy or a sense of moral obligation that the givers choose to give, and it is not by merit that the receivers are privileged to receive. Because it is expected, there is no reason to be grateful, because they can always count on more and it is of no cost to them. The sense of entitlement that always accompanies government aid makes it essentially counter intuitive.

It is ineffective. You send $1,000 into the government and never see it again. It gets filtered down through the federal bureaucracy and eventually it helps some guy on the other side of the country who does not know from where this magical income came and does not really care. You give $1,000 to your local charity and you will see the return. You improve your community and you maintain the sacredness of giving.

In his speech at the Democratic National Convention, Barack Obama pandered to blue-collar liberals, criticizing what he deemed the Republican philosophy of an "'Ownership Society," in which all of the helpless Americans, neglected by Republicans, will be left to deal with the inhumane forces of the economy.

"In Washington, they call this the 'Ownership Society,' but what it really means is that you're on your own. Out of work? Tough luck, you're on your own. No health care? The market will fix it. You're on your own. Born into poverty? Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps, even if you don't have boots. You are on your own," Obama said.

Judging from the feverish applause that his comment received, Goldwater's warning has not been heeded. Voters need to stop giving in to politicians' promises to take on yet another function in people's lives and take responsibility for their own; the government needs to stop making these promises.

Conservatives must articulate that they do not wish to abandon their fellow Americans in their greatest times of need, but that they do demand them to be held accountable, because that is the only way to make true progress. We believe in the power of a free market and the engine of competitive capitalism. That means that people reap the benefits of their successes and accept the consequences of not trying at all. There will be winners and losers and an inequality of result. Until we come to terms with this, we will never be the democracy we can be.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL
HALEY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR
ANDREW WEISS

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
ZACH VESSELS

DESIGNERS
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER
AREZOO NAZARI
STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
FLOR ORTEGA
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
MOLLY ZWEIG

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

new campus life director, Liz Adams, brings change to program, 5a

page 4a
issue 2 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

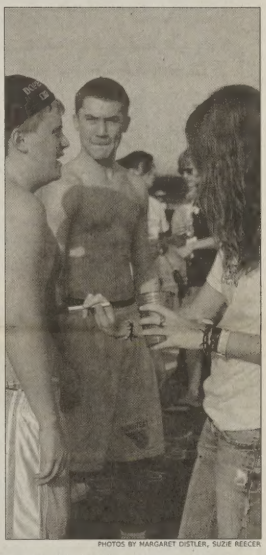
Friday Pep Session

Homecoming King, Queen Campus Life Kickoff 2008

Friday, September 26, 2008

Keeping a tradition alive

Tailgating provides fun, food for all ages before high school, college, professional football games



PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, SUZIE REECER

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
WRITER

Even though 8-year-old Parker Neuman does not have any siblings who attend Homestead, he wears a blue and yellow baseball hat, sporting the Spartan logo. He and 13 of his closest friends are celebrating his birthday as they run around playing football in the grass near the entrance to the Environmental Center before Homecoming.

Along with five adults, a minivan, a folding card table and plenty of food, the Neumans participate in a sports tradition: the tailgate.

"We're having a tailgate-birthday party," Lisa Neuman, his mom, said. "We saw the idea in a magazine that his sister had and thought it would be a great idea.

Anyone who frequents football, baseball and basketball games probably sees tailgaters eating and showing their team spirit before the game. Whether a picnic served from the trunk or an elaborate feast with Martha Stewart flair, the tailgate offers a chance to get the party started before a game. While tailgating is most popular at college or professional sporting events, there is a tradition of tailgating at Homestead as well.

"We tailgate in the sophomore parking lot," Kristen Kinzer (12) said.

Kinzer arrives at the parking lot around 6 p.m. for a football game that starts at 7 p.m. On the contrary, most tailgaters arrive about two hours before the game starts. This ensures enough time to cook, clean up and find their seats for the game.

"Usually 20 to 25 people show up to tailgate," Daniel Coplen (12) said.

On Homecoming night, student government sponsored a tailgate that offered a $5 fee for all-you-can-eat food, which included burgers and hot dogs, collectively known as staple foods of tailgating. Snack foods like pretzels and chips also are big at tailgates, as well as cookies and other finger foods. Almost as important as the food, though, is the tailgating entertainment.

"We have a boom box going, and we always have a football around," Kinzer said. "Footballs, volleyballs and frisbees are fun to play with at tailgates while the food is cooking."

> "The people you're with and the good food [are what] make a great tailgate."
>
> **BRITTANY TREVINO ('05)**
> Purdue Student

Adding to the energetic atmosphere are the spirited painter boys, who take the time to prepare for the forthcoming football game.

"At the beginning of the year we just picked the guys who we thought would [be painters]," Coplen said.

During the tailgate, painters use chalk and write on the pavement what letter they would like to represent. As game time gets closer, the painters scribble their initials by the desired letter.

Even though Homestead has some avid parking lot partygoers, the real tailgate culture is exhibited at college and professional sports, where some fans look to specialty cookbooks or Food Network tailgate experts for ideas.

"I went to a San Diego Chargers game," Valerie Parker (10) said. "More than 100 people tailgated there. I wore football gear, face paint, the whole enchilada." Many argue that tailgating is far more present on the collegiate level, where students' weekends are centralized around sporting events.

"The whole school tailgates before the game at Purdue," Brittany Trevino ('05) said. "Everybody dresses up and has flags and flagpoles of the team."

Regardless of whether it is a tailgate for college students, high school painters or all-around sports fans, the 2005 graduate believes the ingredients never change.

"The people you're with and the good food [are what] make a great tailgate," Trevino said.

1. Allie Bley (11) reviews a picture of two friends in the parking lot before the game last Friday. **2.** Posing for their own picture, painter boys Grant Welter (12), Derek DeRoo (12) and Ross Peare (12) smile with Erika Berghoff (10). **3.** Garrett Bastin (10) and Justin Norris (10) watch a bean bag as it lands during a game of corn hole at the student government tailgate. **4.** Heavily concentrating, Chelsea Hanauer (12) paints an "O" on Adam King's (12) stomach as Derek Kinzer (12) waits in line. **5.** Preparing for the game, a football player's last name is painted upon the back of a painter boy. **6.** Meghan Terrell (12) commands the grill at the student government tailgate before the Homecoming football game. **7.** Mary Distler's (9) array of food prepared for a Notre Dame football tailgate.

Faculty, student train for half-marathon

Two thousand participants to compete in Fort-4-Fitness 13.1 mile race Saturday morning downtown

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
LIFE EDITOR

On your mark, get set, go. Seventeen hours from now, these words will kick off the first annual Fort-4-Fitness half-marathon. Two thousand participants will compete in the 13.1 mile race that starts in Friemann Square and travels throughout downtown Fort Wayne.

While some competitors travel long distances across the state to run in the event, Nate Ferrise (12) will only make a drive downtown to run in his first half-marathon. While Ferrise is the only Homestead student participating, business teachers Kent Mitchell and Karen Hirschy, along with seminar supervisor Liz Craker, will be representing Homestead in the race.

While running the event is no easy feat, Ferrise has spent the last few weeks training for the big day, with upper body conditioning three times a week and 15-mile runs two days a week.

"Practice your best, because you'll only be able to do as good as you practice," Ferrise said.

With helpful tips for runners, the event's official website, www.fort-4-fitness.org, encourages training and eating healthy in the last few days leading up to the race. While Ferrise has altered his daily workout in preparation for the race, diet has not been a factor.

"I just eat what I want, when I want to," Ferrise said. "Anyone who uses protein isn't really as strong as they seem because they use it as a crutch. If you can't do it by yourself, why do it?"

This event will be the first half-marathon for Mitchell as well, who ran cross country in high school, a sport that, in Mitchell's opinion, has lost popularity.

"When I was in school, running was very competitive," Mitchell said. "I would run a 4:34 mile and couldn't get out of my sectional. I think more [people] ran then because more sports are offered to [today's students]."

These days, Mitchell has gotten out of the world of competitive running and does it only for personal reasons.

"I like to stay in shape and be healthy," Mitchell said. "Running sets me free from my stress."

Ferrise is the perfect example for Mitchell's philosophy on cross country, citing competition as the main flaw of the sport.

"I'm not in cross country because I don't like all the rules and regulations," Ferrise said. "I enjoy running just for me. There's no winner except me."

While some treat the half-marathon as a serious race, Mitchell and Ferrise have kept their goals realistic, in respect to their placement at the end of the race. Winning is not their objective, but rather each has picked a time he would like to be under for each mile. To keep their spirits up, they also have entered in a friendly bet with one another.

"My only goals are to run seven minute miles and be ahead of [Ferrise]," Mitchell said. "Whoever loses is probably going to bring treats in for the class."

While the half-marathon is one of the major events taking place downtown, Fort 4 Fitness is meant to be an educational event for the public. On Friday, Sept. 6, there will be a Health Fair inside the Allen County Public Library. The fair runs from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and features booths with the latest medical equipment and tips on staying healthy.

Other events on Saturday include a four mile run/walk and a Healthy Food Expo. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., local restaurants will be showcasing healthy food choices and encouraging attendees to try samples and purchase lunches.

FAST FACTS

September 26, 2008
The Health Fair is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the downtown branch of the Allen County Public Library.

September 27, 2008
The 13.1 mile Fort-4-Fitness half-marathon begins at 7:30 a.m. in the Freimann Square along with a 4 mile run/walk that goes through the Historic West Central Neighborhood and ends back at the Square .The Health Food Expo is at Freimann Square from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

True heroes discovered after several hours of laser tagging

As I sit there, eagerly awaiting to don my red LED vest, a long-haired rapscallion, about mid-20s, peeks around the corner. He hasn't shaved in quite sometime—I can tell by the scraggly, sparse beard, if you can call it that. He wears chains and most likely listens to that "music" with all the screaming. He was obviously a regular, who the employees know by his laser tag alias, "Aces."

From the previous times I had been to Ultrazone, I had kind of developed a sense of what to expect each trip. The first few times, I came in the middle of the day, so it was mostly kids at a birthday party.

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOC. EDITOR

But this last time was quite different. Upon parking, the cough-inducing fragrance of cigarettes nearly knocked me over. A few interesting looking characters were off in a far corner of the parking lot, playing hacky-sack and smoking. We casually, yet carefully, ignored them, all the while making certain that our cars were locked.

After entering, the first thing that caught our attention was a guy, dressed in all black of course, on his laptop. He was just surfing the web, minding his own business. Who knew Ultrazone had Wifi?

Anyway, we passed the others, playing video games and eating the famous Ultrazone hot dogs, and approached the friendly cashier. She kindly gave us our all-night passes, and we waited until they called our game. Our excitement was unbelievable.

The game master, if you will, briefed us on our task. But of course, we can't run, touch the floor with anything but our feet, or even full-body tackle someone. They take all the fun out. Eventually, we head in to the room with the vests, and search for the functioning ones. I always try to find number two.

I'm forced to settle for number four, and we impatiently wait for the game master to set us free. I look over, and I see "Aces" and Internet man getting in to battle mode. They take their job seriously, so you don't have to.

All throughout the fight, I hear screams of "hot pocket blue" and "grilled cheese red." At first, I thought it was just screams of those caught up in the excitement of lasers. But as I thought deeper, I discovered the true genius behind their shrieks.

Now, I understand that they were merely expressing their frustration with the current laser tag system. There needs to be a revolt, an uprising, a rebellion. The vests need to be more comfortable. Running must be allowed. And the gun should not need to be held with two hands to fire. Viva La Revolución!

These are the true heroes of the laser tag scene. They dedicate their time to promoting laser tag reform, when they could be doing something much better with their lives. They could hold down a solid job, or volunteer at the soup kitchen. But do they? No. All for the love of the game.

So, next time you head over to play a game of laser tag, say hi to "Aces" for me. And thank him for being brave enough to do what he does.

Faith, fun bring teens together

New director adds fresh ideas, positive energy to Campus Life activities

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

Campus Life has been a staple of extracurricular Monday nights for years. As compared to other school-related gatherings, Campus Life is unique in that there are no requirements to be met or dues to be paid. Students in attendance need only a positive attitude and a high energy level as they participate in sports and other activities, all with an overlying moral theme.

To facilitate these aspects, a charismatic and friendly leader is a necessity for Campus Life, and recently appointed director Liz Adams looks to fit the bill. When speaking with Adams, it is immediately apparent that she is very enthusiastic and has big plans for her group.

Originally hailing from Fort Wayne, Adams knows what it is like to grow up in the area and realizes how important Campus Life is to its members.

"[The goal of Campus Life is to] create a fun environment for kids where they can just hang out," Adams said.

This objective may make Campus Life initially appear shallow and directionless, but in reality Campus Life encourages Christian morals at every meeting. However, students of all religions are welcome. The aspects of Christianity emphasized at the meetings are mainly the concepts of morals and being a good person, which anyone can relate to.

"We just teach basic stuff on Monday Nights," Adams said. "We have bible study on other nights."

In addition to the weekly meetings held by Campus Life, Adams is always planning new, special events for students. For example, she took her members to a Wizards game shortly before school started in August. Many students are also looking forward to trips planned for the near future, including a ski trip during the winter months. This passion for getting students together for fun activities is what makes Campus Life such a popular gathering.

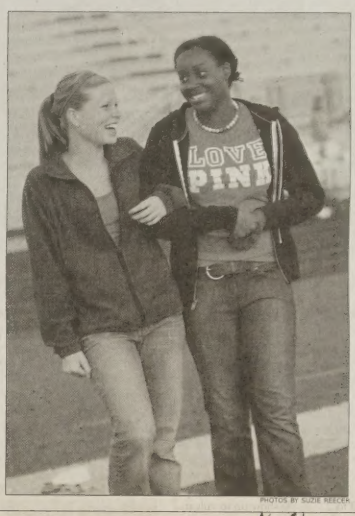
"I like being really involved in Campus Life," Chelsea Hanauer (12) said. "It's a place where everyone can get together, hang out with their friends, and play fun and crazy games."

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is another Christian-based school club. Campus Life and FCA are similar in several other ways. For one, FCA also holds special occasions for students to enjoy, including the walk-in movie they sponsored after the football game on Friday, Sept. 12 on the practice field. In addition, while predominantly Christian, FCA and Campus Life are both open to students of all faiths.

"I joined [FCA] to be part of a Christian atmosphere with other athletes," Nikki Wilson (12) said.

In relation to Homestead, FCA and Campus Life serve as places for students to advance their faiths and interact with others in positive ways. Overall, Campus Life is an enjoyable, safe environment with a devoted following.

"I would definitely [encourage people to join Campus Life] because it's great. It's a really fun place to be to get connected with other people," Hanauer said. "Their morals and lessons make it more than just fun and games."

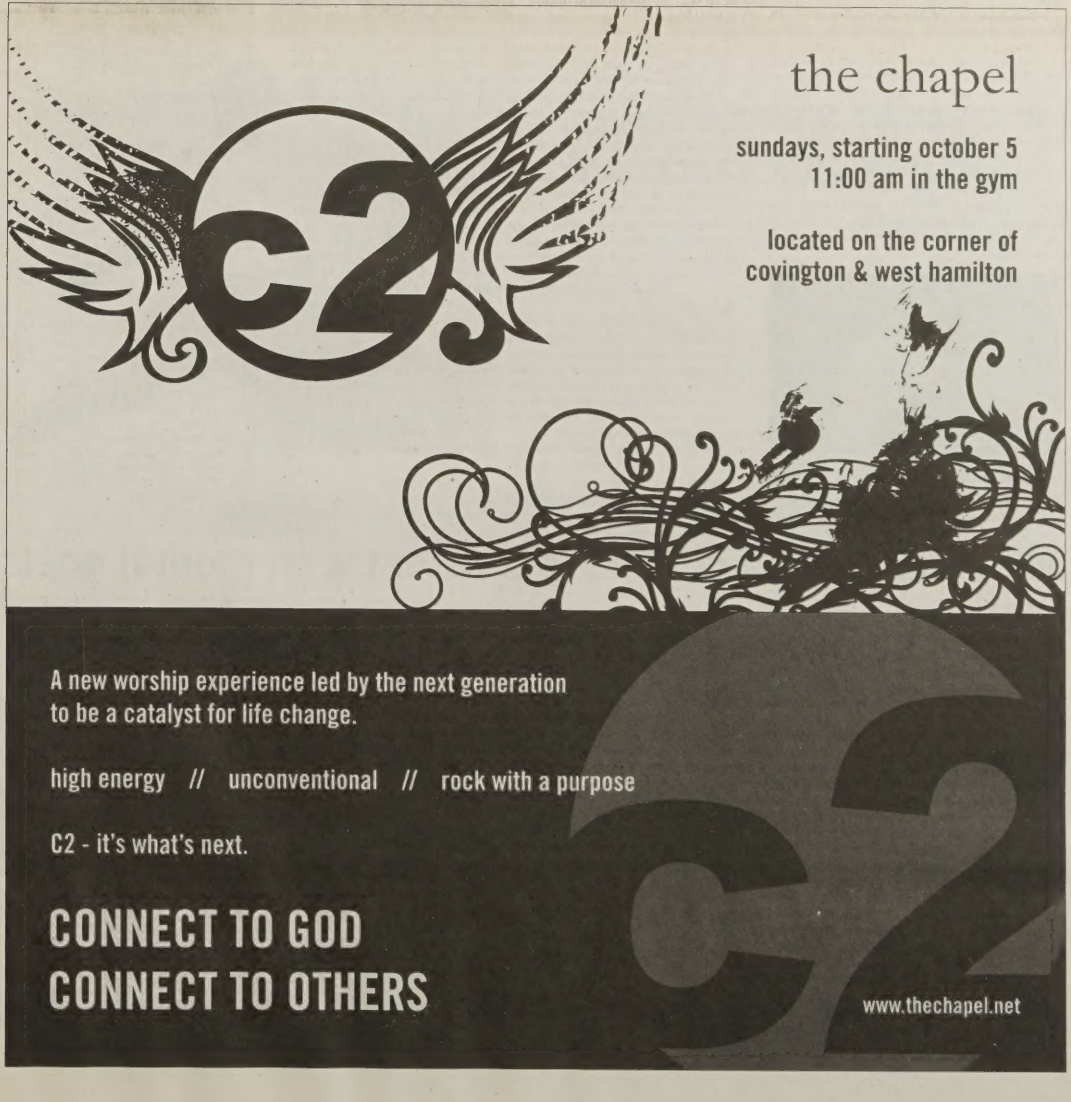


PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Elbow tag partners Kelly Stace (11) and Alissa DeBruce (11) laugh together during the Campus Life Kickoff.

THE DL ON CL

Campus Life (CL) meets every Monday night from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Twice each month, they meet at the old YMCA building (now Southwest Church) on Homestead Rd. The other locations vary. For more information, contact Liz Adams (pictured left), or visit the Web site at www.homesteadcampuslife.blogspot.com.


c2
the chapel
sundays, starting october 5
11:00 am in the gym
located on the corner of
covington & west hamilton
A new worship experience led by the next generation
to be a catalyst for life change.
high energy // unconventional // rock with a purpose
C2 - it's what's next.
CONNECT TO GOD
CONNECT TO OTHERS
www.thechapel.net

SPORTS

football gains victory over HuntingtonNorth in season opener, 7a

page 6a
issue 2 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Soccer: page 7a Tennis: page 6a Cheerleading: page 7a

Friday, September 26, 2008

Young talent carries tennis through season

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

There are high expectations for the boys varsity tennis team this year; however, the team will not meet these high expectations behind an upperclassman leader. Instead, they will look to a sophomore to show them the way. Connor Andrews (10) is the No. 1 singles player for Homestead after having a phenomenal freshman year season.

After finishing second at state two years ago, last year seemed to be a letdown for the team, as they only advanced to regionals.

The Spartans are looking to build on last season by setting the bar higher this year. Andrews stated the goals of the team are to win sectionals, regionals, semi-state, and finally, the state finals.

"Our team has a good shot at getting to state if we can keep it together and work as a team," Andrews said.

He also looks to encourage the junior varsity team in leading by example. Andrews realizes that because he is the No. 1 singles player, many of the younger players will look to him for leadership. To achieve his goals, Andrews knows he will have to play his best.

"It's even more challenging for me this year than it was last year, because I will be playing the best player on every team, and I will have to bring my 'A' game every time," Andrews said.

He believes that bringing his "A" game should be no problem, because in the off-season he worked on his strokes along with his footwork.

"My serve has gotten better along with my mental game, which is important," Andrews said.

Andrews is not the only one looking to have a good season. Scott Rumancik (12) looks to make his senior year a year to remember by having a great season.

"I believe we can at least make it to semi-state, but we have the talent to make it to state with the guys on the team this year," Rumancik said.

Along with Andrews, the team is made up of No. 2 singles Michael Zurcher (11), No. 3 singles Austin Overlander (10), No. 1 doubles Jordan Mauk (10) and Brad White (11) and No. 2 doubles Scott Rumancik (12) and Steve Anderson (11). Zurcher is the captain of the team this year.

The Spartans have four straight conference wins under their belt and are well on their way to a successful season, not to mention their 18th straight Northeast Hoosier Conference title. On Sept. 16, the team swept conference foe Carroll 5-0, winning all of its matches. Overall the team, is 7-2, including a 4-0 conference record.

The Spartans will look to improve on that record this weekend with matches against No. 1 ranked Carmel tonight and #3 ranked Center Grove tomorrow. Homestead is ranked 11th and will be looking to pull some major upsets. The road to state will begin with sectionals on Oct. 1, with Homestead being the venue for all sectional matches.

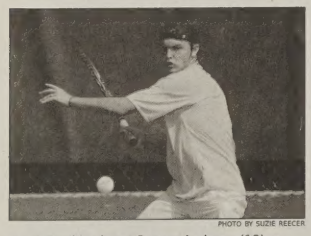
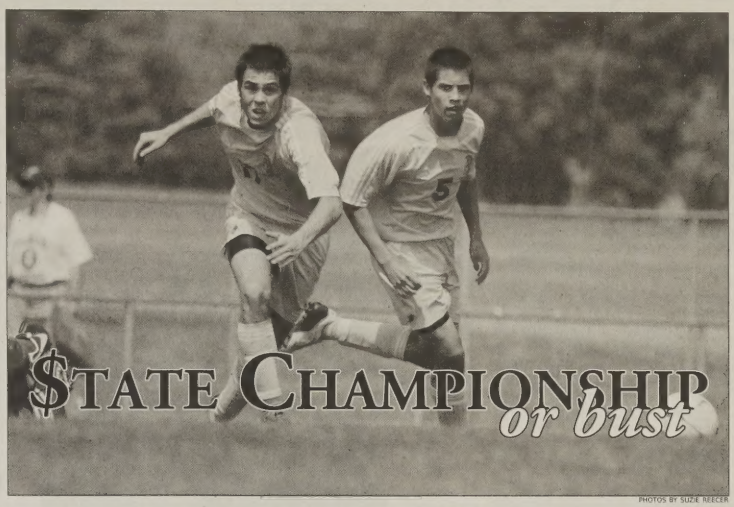


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

No. 1 Singles player Connor Andrews (10) prepares to return the ball to his opponent.



PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

$TATE CHAMPIONSHIP *or bust*

No. 2 ranked Spartans prepare for 'Money Game' matchup against Canterbury

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

"So close." That thought was running through the minds of the members of the boys varsity soccer team as they fell to Goshen in last year's semi-state game. This year's battle cry?

"State championship or bust."

With key players returning from last year's high-octane team, including team captain Grant Welter (12), Kegan Harkenrider (11), Zach Mettler (11), Tom Ault (11), Tom Gallmeyer (12) and goalkeeper Justin Hanford (11), who in 1540 minutes of play last year gave up only 10 goals, there are high expectations for the squad. In addition to the returning starters, the team has added Connor McMahon (11), who has proved to be a strong offensive contributor. McMahon was born in Manchester, England, where the famous soccer clubs Manchester United and Manchester City are located.

The boys worked hard this summer in temperatures exceeding 95 degrees in order to get back to that tiptop postseason form. Behind their two top scorers from last season, Mettler and Welter, the Spartans started off this season strong, as they ran over teams like Columbia City, East Noble and South Side. The team averaged eight goals a game during this stretch.

Along with the contributions of Welter and Mettler, another star showed up and contributed to the goal-scoring bonanza. Harkenrider (11) had four goals against East Noble in a 12-0 beating of the Knights. Behind their stellar offense, the Spartans also won the Carroll Invitational, where they defeated both Plymouth and Carroll.

Although these opponents seemed to pose no threat to the Spartans, the team received their first real test when Carmel came to town. The Greyhounds were ranked third in the state coming into the game; however, the Spartans did not back down. After going back and forth for the full 90 minutes of regulation time, neither team came away with a win in the end. Instead, both highly ranked teams left each other with a tie on their records. The lone Spartan goal came from Welter, who has been embracing his role as team captain.

"To be the captain two years in a row is a great honor because it means that my teammates believe in me," Welter said. "They expect me to be a leader and they know what I'm capable of doing in pressure situations."

Still touting an undefeated record, the varsity soccer team's next goal has been circled on their calendars for some time. The day of Saturday, Sept. 27 has been on the players' minds since last season, and now the team cannot wait to take vengeance on the Canterbury Cavaliers, who defeated the Spartans in their previous meeting. The Money Game, as the game has been referred to for the past few years, is viewed as a clash of area high school soccer titans. Both Homestead and Canterbury have been consistently ranked as some of the top teams in the state when they face off for their annual battle. These high rankings create a hectic atmosphere, and some players look at this game as the most important game on the schedule.

"To me, this game means so much and it means a lot to the school. This is the biggest rival we have had in a long time," Gallmeyer said. "We want redemption, and [receiving] bragging rights for a year is what also makes this game so great."

Another semi-state appearance is possible for Homestead, but that is not the team's main goal. Looking to build on last season's success, the team is looking for that "state championship or bust." Being ranked third in the state and having an undefeated record proves that this goal is attainable.

"[Winning] state would mean everything," Ault said. "Most of the team has been playing for this for three or four years now, and we won't settle for anything less."

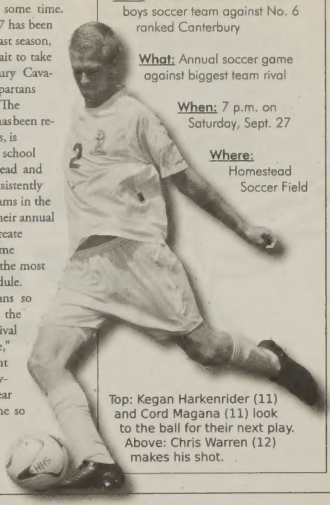
MONEY GAME

Who: No. 2 ranked Homestead boys soccer team against No. 6 ranked Canterbury

What: Annual soccer game against biggest team rival

When: 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27

Where: Homestead Soccer Field



Top: Kegan Harkenrider (11) and Cord Magana (11) look to the ball for their next play. Above: Chris Warren (12) makes his shot.

Volleyball led by seniors, persistent with mental goals

BY ANDREW WEISS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

While most people judge a team's talent on their record, this should not be the case with the varsity girls volleyball team. Despite the fact that the team's record may show them having minimal success, players on the team believe the season thus far has been more prosperous than their record conveys.

Even though there is only one ranked team in their conference, Homestead has played a difficult schedule. In their first game of the season, Homestead was beaten by #9 ranked Concordia in three straight sets. #1 ranked Bishop Dwenger also beat the team in three sets.

"It was a good experience to play against better volleyball teams and I think we learned a lot from both of those games," Taylor Chin (11) said.

Homestead dropped their Northeast Hoosier Conference opener to Columbia City three sets to none. Despite the loss, Sarah Huguenard (12) had a great game, leading the team with eleven kills and ten digs. Complementing Huguenard's great performance, Rylie Pearson (10) had two blocks along with two aces.

"The team as a whole played a lot better defensively than we did in our past games," Pearson said.

Heading into the Lafayette Jefferson tournament, the team's confidence was growing. They had won three of their last five games and they picked up right where they left off. The Lady Spartans beat Clinton Prairie and Pendleton Heights while losing to Snider and Penn.

"Overall, the tournament went really well. [The Snider and Penn games] were also really close," Chelsea Childers (12) said. "Up to that point, those were the four best games we had played all season."

Defeating Marion, who knocked the Lady Spartans out of sectionals last year on their way to winning the tournament, has arguably been the high point of the team's season so far. Marion is one of the teams that Homestead will have to beat in order to claim this year's sectional title.

"Our main goal this year is to win sectionals, so beating last year's sectional champions was good and gave us a lot of confidence for the rest of the year," Childers said.

Not including the two tournaments they have participated in, Homestead has a record of 4-7, with their wins coming against Dekalb, North Side, Wayne and Marion. This Saturday, Homestead hosts a tournament for local teams. After the tournament, the team will play five conference games, including a game against #4 ranked Bellmont.

After the Lady Spartans play a tournament at Penn High School to end the regular season, sectionals begin. North Side and Marion, two squads that the team has already beaten, are in their sectional.

"We have a lot of individual talent, but we have kind of struggled so far," Childers said. "We are really looking forward to playing in sectionals."

If the Lady Spartans can continue their hot streak, they may complete a Cinderella Story at the sectional tournament.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Chelsea Childers (12) and teammates celebrate after a scored point.

Spartan mascot: what is your profession?

Word around school is that we're getting a little boost to the student cheering section. What could possibly be added to this newly revamped student section of ours, you ask? We already have the painters, t-shirts, drums, crazy hats, cheers and the Donk Clap. According to our athletic director, Joe Updegrove, we could use a Spartan mascot, and that is exactly what we're getting.

"The student body has been doing a great job of getting excited at sporting events and keeping things positive," Updegrove said. "I think having a Spartan mascot will add to the spirit."

The $400 costume is basically a Halloween costume kit for King Leonidas from the movie "300." With a helmet, shield, sword, wrist bands, shin guards and cape all part of the attire, the person playing the part of the Homestead mascot will have the look of a true Spartan. I'm going to go so far as to say whoever dons this glorious Spartan suit will look good. Possibly good enough to dine in that one place reserved for Adolf Hitler, Osama bi Laden, and Kevin Federline.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

But what does it take to be a true Spartan? Lucky for you, I've figured out the qualifications needed to go into this intense profession.

1. The Spartan must be stronger than Helga from "American Gladiators". If you've ever seen "300," you know King Leonidas is ripped. His muscles almost look as if they were spray painted onto his body. In order for our Spartan to be intimidating, he must look like Leonidas himself. To be the Spartan, you will have to work like Anchorman Ron Burgundy and do over a thousand reps of any workout to pump yourself up. HGH and steroid testing will be conducted, just in case.

2. The Spartan must stay in character. We don't need our Spartan asking people for their cell numbers or if they have a Facebook. Did Spartans have Facebook and cell phones in their time? No. They had battle cries, passion and dignity. The Spartan needs to yell uncontrollably, chant battle cries and prepare our sports teams for glory.

3. The Spartan must be alive, awake, alert, and enthusiastic. If he is just dressing up as a Spartan to get a free ticket into the game and just sit there, he may as well be watching a golf match. The point of the Spartan is to get the student section and the crowd into the game even more. Updegrove didn't pay $400 for him to stand there and think about how good he looks as a Spartan. If he doesn't break a sweat getting the crowd into the game, after the game we'll just feed him to the Persians like the legendary 300 Spartans.

4. The Spartan must be able to beat up the other school's mascot. This is a crucial prerequisite. If he can't beat up Columbia City's Eagle, Norwell's Knight, Dekalb's Baron, or New Haven's Bulldog, he shall be shunned by all fans of Spartan athletics. Honestly, he will have the armor and the sword, and he should be ripped (see No. 1). There are no excuses for losing to measly bird or bulldog.

5. The Spartan must interact with everyone. Don't just stand in front of the student section; move around and mingle with the adults, little kids and band. The more involved everyone in the crowd gets, the more beneficial it will be for the athletes. Just don't forget to interact with everyone. That means the opposing fans and players. If our teams are winning, let them know it.

6. The Spartan must never take a day off. As Rule #76 of the Wedding Crashers guide goes, "No excuses. Play like a champion." The Spartan cannot pick and choose the games he would like to attend. It's important to show consistency and dedication to the players and fans. Besides, who wants semi-devoted mascot anyways?

7. Any miscellaneous talents the Spartan possesses are welcome. Knowing how to walk it out, crank that Soulja Boy, and two step could end up being useful. If he can jump through a ring of fire, that's great, too. Let's just hope he doesn't attempt to do it at the games. We don't need our facilities going up in flames.

Those of you who believe you have what it takes to be the Spartan, let Updegrove know. The job is still available. If you get the job, prepare for the glory you will receive as a Spartan. Just make sure your spray painted muscles look presentable and you cooperate with any HGH or steroid testing that comes your way.

bound & determined

Lady Spartans soccer defeats Carroll, continues journey to clinch conference title

Kellie Julius (12) fights for the ball in a game against Canterbury. Despite Homestead's close loss to the Cavaliers, regained confidence in recent wins.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

The cleats of the players on the girls varsity soccer team have been pounding the practice field for a few months now. So far this season the team has gone 10-3. Even with their winning record the girls aren't satisfied.

"So far, we've lost to Canterbury, Zionsville and Noblesville," Abby Paul (12) said. "But we all know we could have won those games if things would have gone a little differently."

According to the girls, the three losses on their record haven't decreased team morale at all. Every one of them still believes the team is talented enough to go to state, just as their coaches do.

"We're in it to win it," Ann Eichman (11) said.

On Monday, Sept. 22, the Lady Spartans faced off against Carroll. Similar to previous years, this game was a large determining factor in the race for the Northeast Hoosier Conference title, as both teams were undefeated in conference play.

After playing hard for the first 20 minutes, the girls received a foul called in their favor and were able to set up a penalty kick just outside of the goalie box. Abby Paul took the kick and scored the team's first goal. After Carroll came back to tie the game, Paul was again able to do the exact same thing.

"My team really helped me by getting the fouls that gave me the chance to take the free kicks. I knew before I kicked them that the ball was going to go in, so I wasn't nervous, just confident," Paul said.

The girls had taken the the advantage again, but their lead did not last for long. The Chargers came back and scored with about 10 minutes left in the game. The teams were playing so hard and with such intensity, the match looked as if would go into overtime.

"We were playing so hard that going into overtime would have been tough, but I'm sure we could have done it," Paul said.

Luckily, overtime was not on the minds of any of the team members as the last goal was scored with 30 seconds left. With an assist from Jordyn Weber (11), Justine Jost (12) scored the winning goal.

"So much intensity was brought on to the field from both teams. We definitely stepped it up in order to pull through with a game-winning goal in the last minute," Jost said. "It was a team effort."

Despite the struggle, the girls never backed down.

"I think we played so hard because we knew this game was for the conference title. The intensity was so high," Weber said.

The Lady Spartans' upcoming games will prove to be challenging as well. The team will play a tough Snider team this Saturday and #3 ranked Bishop Dwenger on Thursday, Oct. 2. Dwenger is one team that the Lady Spartans will have to beat once sectionals begin. Their schedule will be tough, but the team thinks that they are up for the challenge.

"We did so well against Carroll because that's what we do. Carroll was tough, just like the rest of the teams we're going to play, but we came at them with our game," Eichman said. "If we keep coming out hard and playing our best we can go as far as we want."

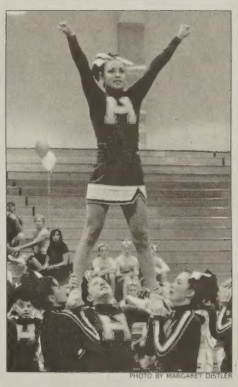


PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Cheer takes 2nd in Homestead Competition

"I think that with all of the changes, adjustments, and close calls on injuries, we all worried about how we were going to pull through to perform well. We were also stressed about this competition, not only because it was our first, but because we hadn't perfected our routine yet. Since it was in our gym, we felt the pressure to represent Homestead well. After we competeted, though, I don't think there was one girl who wasn't proud of what she left on the mat. I think everyone made little mistakes, but nothing that can't be fixed; we did much better than we had expected we would."

BRACKLEY VILLERS (12)
Varsity Cheerleader

Flyer Cara Pepperman (10) poses while her base cheerleaders focus on supporting her during the team's routine at the Homestead Cheer Invitational last Saturday.

SEASON CHECKPOINT

SPORTS TEAM	Girls Golf	Boys Cross Country	Girls Cross Country	Football
SEASON RECORD	6-4	3rd in 3 invites 6th in 1 invite	1st in 2 invites, 2nd in 2 invites	4-1
UPCOMING GAME	Regionals at Coblestone Golf Course at 1 p.m.	New Haven Invite at the Plex at 11:20 a.m.	New Haven Invite at the Plex at 10:50 a.m.	Regular Conference Game against DeKalb at DeKalb at 7 p.m.
PEOPLE TO WATCH	Karley Dobis (9), Jasmine Jennings (9)	Donny Heath (11), Andrew McClain (11)	Haley Havert (9), Sara Hoppe (11), Kayla Lubkert (9)	Cody Appenzeller (10), Jamar Freeman (11), Colin Harruff (11)

all MONDAYS ARE
Mocha Mondays
$2 MOCHA 16oz
@
next MOCHA MONDAY is:
september 29
Espresso Gallery
COFFEE ROASTERS

FRIDAY NIGHT SIGHTS

Homecoming week proves successful, students enthusiastic about school pride

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

faculty excited about Homecoming, student government came up with several ideas that made this year's event one of the best ever. Because the dress up days appealed to both students and faculty, spirited outfits could be easily spotted in every hallway.

"Student government did a great job of picking the day categories this year," Schmidt said.

Dubbed gold day in honor of the Gold Rush theme of the football game and dance, Friday provided yet another opportunity for students to display their Spartan spirit during the pep rally.

"I really liked Homecoming week because the pep rally brought the whole school together," Kylene Coate (11) said.

Encouraging students from all grades and athletic teams to participate in spirit competitions and relays, the pep rally provided entertainment as it supported and highlighted each athletic team. The event was emceed by Mac Finley (12) and Sharde Carlisle (12), with performances by the cheerleading squad and hip hop team. The pep rally was an enthusiastic display of school spirit.

"It was an interesting week," Jared Gutwein (11) said. "I liked watching the games at the pep session."

During the pep rally, athletes from each sports team were selected to participate in relay events designed by student government. Wrapping each other in toilet paper and rolling across the gym floor, students enthusiastically competed as the audience cheered for their favorite teams. At the end of the pep rally, all students were invited to a tailgate dinner before the football game and dance.

"We tried to come up with ideas to make the events fun and get people to come out and support our team," Nicole Szoko (12), student government representative and Homecoming coordinator, said.

As the Spartans annihilated the Belmont Braves, students crowded the stands, cheering loudly in gold shirts and body paint. During halftime, Homecoming court was introduced and the king and queen were announced. Alex Defreew (12) was crowned Homecoming King, and Kelly Lehman (12) took the title of Homecoming Queen.

Overall, the dress up days, pep rally and football game were a success because they promoted school spirit in a way that appealed to students of every grade. Because Homecoming has been one of the least promoted events in years past, student government worked especially hard this year to get the school more involved.

"For the most part, we just wanted to get everyone excited and involved with the event," Szoko said.

Although some parts of the week easily gained student interest, other aspects were more difficult for to promote. Because the Homecoming dance is often typified by underclassmen attendance, representatives worked hard to make the event more appealing to upperclassmen.

"Our goal was to get the upperclassmen to come to the dance," Szoko said.

Promoted throughout the week, the Homecoming dance successfully drew the attention of many students.

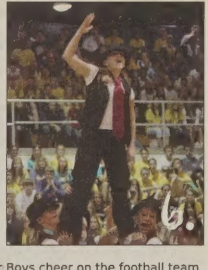
"I'm excited for the dance," Coate said. "I'm going to get my groove on."

While some students were enthusiastic about the dance, others believed it was merely a less popular version of MORP. In years past, bonfires have been conducted in place of the dance, and some students believe that they provided more variety in school activities.

"I wish Homecoming was a bonfire," Sara Nettleton (12) said. "The bonfire was fun and something different."

However, despite objections, the dance was dubbed a success by student government as well as those who attended. Although underclassman attendance exceeded that of upperclassmen, student government has been commended for their incredible endorsement of Homecoming, boosting Spartan spirit.

"[The dance] was mostly underclassmen again, but it seemed like everyone was having a good time," Szoko said. "I think we did a great time getting people to come. Everyone really put forth their best effort."



PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, SUZIE REECER

1. The Painter Boys cheer on the football team and the crowd. **2.** Trisha Krall (11) poses with her sabre during the halftime show at the Homecoming game. **3.** Drummers march in unison during the halftime show. **4.** Brackley Villers (12) cheers on the crowd during the school fight song. **5.** Harry Foster (12) bends the rules during the Team Fued activity during the pep session. Each team had to barrel roll up the court, blow a ping pong ball back down the court, and wrap the last member of the team in toilet paper. The anchor person then had to repeat the process. Karley Dobis (9) brought the girls team from behind in the final seconds to win. **6.** Tara Ettensohn (12) pumps up the crowd during the dance team's performance. **7.** Mac Finley (12) emcees the pep rally on Friday.

PERSPECTIVES

Students share homecoming experiences from their point of view

SHELBY BELL (10)

2:50	Cheer practice was very tough... last one until competition.
5:00	Went to the tailgating party. Lots of friends, fun and food.
6:20	Walked out to the field and then the game started. Cheered whole game.
9:30	Game ended, and went to Madi Ford's house to watch Spiderman 3 and eat pizza and chips.
12:05	Left Madi's house and went home.

KYLE BEUTLER (12)

2:35	Just left the senior lot. Thank you assembly for letting me out earlier than normal.
4:20	I eat my typical pre game meal: Two apples, some cheese and crackers, and a healthy bowl of cocoa puffs.
7:00	It's time for kickoff. Let's go!
8:30	Halftime, 14-0. I am loving every second of playing on Friday night.
9:45	I am taken out after a long day's work. Boy, that was fun, and a nice "W" to top it off, 34-14.

MONICA POWERS (11)

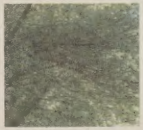
3:00	Went to Kelsey's house. Fun! Played with her cat Napoleon aka Nappy.
6:20	Went to Huntington with some Homestead friends and Leo friends.
7:00	Went to concert in Huntington. We saw Skunkape Hysteria, In the Face of War, and two other bands.
11:00	Went to IHOP. Split chocolate chip pancakes with Kelsey.
12:30	Went to Kelsey's house and went to sleep. I wasn't tired at all.

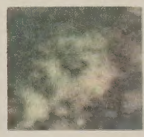
DEVIN PRICE (9)

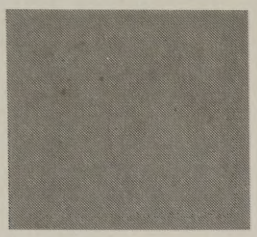
2:42	Went to band practice until 5:15.
5:15	Got ready for game. It was very hot.
6:00	Traveled to and waited at the band bleachers until our halftime performance.
7:00	Performed halftime show.
9:00	Undressed and went to friend's house.
12:00	Went home and got ready for tomorrow's band competition.

MIRADOR

26 SEPTEMBER 2008
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
4310 HOMESTEAD ROAD
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46814







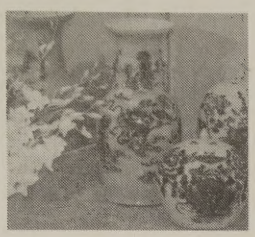


TABLE of CONTENTS

COVER PHOTOS BY ROD KUHN AND STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

Historic Stroll: Mark Hannon and Jan Venderly walk through West Central Neighborhood during the 26th annual House and Garden Tour.

3 A Look Inside New "Paint and Take" Studio

4 Artist of the Month: Sam Scaringelli

5 Fort Wayne's Best Chips & Salsa

6 Leas Family Famous Chicken Wrap

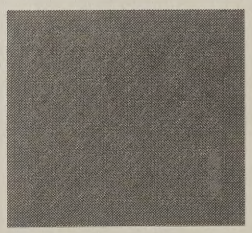
7 Johnny Appleseed Festival Photo Essay

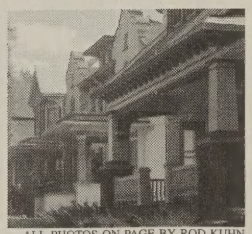
9 The Historic West Central Neighborhood

13 Movie Review: Hamlet 2

14 Book Review: Breaking Dawn

» **mir·a·dor (mr-dôr, -dr)**
n. a window, balcony, or turret designed to command a broad view





ALL PHOTOS ON PAGE BY ROD KUHN

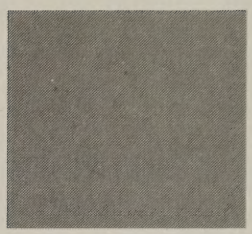


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

RELEASES & EVENTS

POETRY

First Friday Readings: Poetry by local poets at 3 Rivers Co-op, 10/04 (7:30 PM)

Poetry Contest: Poetry submissions being accepted for "Poetic Visions" anthology, deadline is 10/15, mail to:

Wayne Hill
1826 Third St.
Fort Wayne, IN
46808

MOVIE RELEASES

9/26 Eagle Eye; The Lucky Ones; Miracle at St. Anna; Forever Strong; Humboldt County

10/3 Flash of Genius; Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist; Blindness; An American Carol

10/10 Body of Lies; The Express; Quarantine

10/17 The Secret Life of Bees; W.

MUSIC RELEASES

9/23 Ben Folds

9/23 Kings of Leon

10/7 Oasis

10/28 Snow Patrol

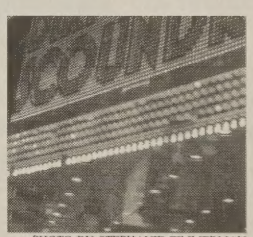


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

CONCERTS

9/30 Ray La Montagne (7:30 PM), Indianapolis, $28

10/1 Citizen Cope (8 PM), Indianapolis, $22.50

10/3 Beh Folds (8:00 PM), Embassy Theatre, $46-65.00

10/16 Reba Mcentire and Kelly Clarkson (7:30 PM), Coliseum, $47.50

PHOTO BY WWW.KINTERA.ORG

RECREATION

Soctoberfest: Adult soccer, food and entertainment at FW Sports Club

10/3: 5:30-10 PM
10/4: 1 PM-12 AM
10/5: 1-6 PM

Guitar Hero: Play popular game with other enthusiasts, every Thursday at Buckets Sports Pub and Grub (5 PM -12 AM)

FESTIVALS

Barr Street Market: 9/27 (9-1 PM) at the History Center, Fort Wayne

Farmer's Market: Every Saturday through 10/25 (2-5 PM) at the Arts Place, Portland

Dekalb County Free Fall Fair 9/27 in Downtown Auburn

INSTRUCTION

Songwriter's Workshop: Receive song writing instruction from Jan Krist at come2go, Fort Wayne 9/27 (7:30 PM)

Campfire Cooking-Foiled Again: Make a foil dinner for $5 at Metea Park, Fort Wayne 9/26 (registration required)

Magic Johnson: Speaks on leadership at Coliseum 9/26

The New Spot: Below: Plaster Fun Spot, located at 14 and Scott, allows customers to choose from over one hundred different plaster pieces. Right: Cory Davis (12) and Tracey Ettensohn (12) test out their plaster -painting prowess.

ARTSY FUN *as close as 14*

ALL PHOTOS BY ZACK VESSELS

Newly opened plaster studio allows patrons to create personal works of art at affordable prices

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

Plaster Fun Spot is a locally owned and operated "paint and take" plaster studio, which opened on July 28, 2008, by Mike Buszuwski. It is located on 10361 Illinois Road between Espresso Gallery and Hong Kong China.

Plaster Fun Spot is a studio where works of art can be created. There are no reservations required and no studio or per hour fees. A customer first chooses their desired piece to be worked on from over 100 different pieces. There are plaques, cartoon characters, figurines, coin banks, and more ranging from $7.95 to $25.95. Everything needed to complete a piece is part of the price which includes paint, brushes, finishing sprays, glitter, and aprons. The customer then has unlimited time and paint to complete their work of art. The average process takes around an hour to complete, but time may vary for each customer depending on how quickly or slowly they work.

Chelsea Hanauer (12), an employee at Plaster Fun Spot, said, "[Plaster Fun Spot] appeals to all age groups. We have lots of birthday parties and many people come in on dates. The whole process takes about an hour to an hour and a half, but some people take longer. I once had a family come in and stay for four hours."

Once the customer finishes painting their piece, a glossy coating is applied by an employee, and it is placed into the drying station for 7-10 minutes where the piece is sealed.

"I like Plaster Fun Spot because everything is included in the price of the plaster piece, and it is an inexpensive place to go have fun and be artistic. You are able to relax, have fun, and bring something home from the experience," explained Shelby Nichter (12).

Plaster Fun Spot accommodates every age group. There are comforts for small children such as kid-sized aprons and step stools, making it a great place for birthday parties, groups, schools as well as walk-ins.

Plaster Fun Spot also has a new Mobile Plaster Fun Spot. This service brings the "paint and take" experience to the customer. A package, date, and time is chosen, and Plaster Fun Spot will bring an artistic experience to any daycare, church group, or senior center. Prices vary depending on packages and there must be a minimum of 30 painters. It costs $5 per artist, plus the cost of each plaster piece, and there must be a minimum of $100 spent. All necessary paints and other tools are provided..

Whether it's the next birthday party or the next date idea, Plaster Fun Spot is a fairly new place to go spread your artistic genius for under $30.00 in a family friendly atmosphere.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

Because of the multitudes of creative talent swimming around the halls of Homestead unnoticed every day, the Mirador intends to highlight a different artist every month and ingeniously label them, the Artist of the Month. This issue, Sam Scaringelli (11) agreed to sit down and talk about her beginnings with the guitar and why she just can't get enough of the All-American Rejects.

Mirador: Why did you start playing?
Sam: I was in Jackie Matheis's basement during a softball party and Emily Huser brought a CD that had the All American Rejects song "Swing Swing" and I told everyone, "I'm going to learn to play that song." That was the first song that I learned all the way through, and that's when I started playing.
M: Is there any specific genre you play?
S: Usually I play folk but its in a softer indie style.
M: What kind of guitars do you have?
S: I have an acoustic Fender called Baby; it was my first guitar. I've brought it to every soccer game since I was 14, and it means a lot to me. I also have a Gibson Flying V, which I named Ignacio. My first electric guitar was a Jay Reynolds that I named Bubble. I have a limited edition Cadillac electric acoustic named Polly that I got off the Home Shopping Network. I also named my keyboard Harold.
M: Have you ever experimented with other kinds of music?
S: I tried doing some electronic music, but it wasn't as fun or as rewarding. With electronic, you have to listen to it over and over again to get the beat right. I ended up doing only one full song which was a cover of "Keep Bleeding" by Rihanna. With guitar, it's just so much more pure and simple; you're making the sounds.
M: Do you have any future plans for your music?
S: Well I'm going to try to record a full length CD by February; I've got 3 songs so far and a couple along the way. I also want to play some shows around Fort Wayne, like at the Mocha Lounge. I just kind of want to get my music out there, nothing famous or anything, though for kicks I do plan on trying out for American Idol
M: Do you have any other members in your band?
S: I usually sing stuff by myself.
M: So its similar to what you did for Earth-Fest?
S: Yeah it was just me and my guitar. I always compare myself to Michelle Branch, and Colbie Caillet, because when they perform its just them and their guitar. It's just pure playing from the heart.

BACKGROUNDINFO

FIRST STARTED PLAYING: 5 years ago
FAVORITE BANDS: Augustana, Joe Purdy, Mayday Parade, and All American Rejects
OFTEN COMPARED TO: Colbie Caillat and Haley Williams from Paramore

M: Do you know how to play any other instruments?
S: Well I can play some drums but I don't own a drum set, and I can play bass, but I mainly do guitar. I've played on keyboard as well.
M: What inspires you to write your songs?
S: Usually its just little things like experiences with friends, and stuff that happens in life. I write songs for people who are important to me; it's my way of saying thank you.
M: So how many songs of yours are dedicated to people?
S: Pretty much all of them, except "Bravery." "Melodious Catastrophe", which I preformed at Earth-Fest, was about the girls on my travel soccer team. "Lost at Sea" was for a friend of mine at Carroll. "Sunshine" is for my travel soccer coach.
M: How do you balance soccer and guitar?
S: I balance them by simply living my life day by day. Soccer is my passion; music is my love. Playing guitar is a stress-reliever to me, and there's nothing better than just going in my basement and playing my guitar. I just feel relaxed and pure.

Look out for Sam's upcoming CD in February, and check out her Myspace Music page for her solo project titled Samfactor at www.myspace.com/samfactor.

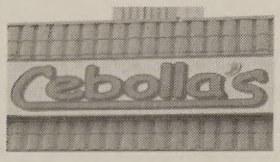
PHOTO BY WWW.SAILUSFOODS.COM

CHIPS & salsa

BY MEGAN HERBERT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

4321

ANTIGUA had a crispy, yellowish corn chip. The salsa had a fresh taste and was very thin. Although at first taste, a tomato flavor was mainly present, after a couple seconds, the spices hit and got very hot. This salsa also had visible pepper seeds. Antigua is at the top of the list because the combination of the chips and the salsa worked well together.

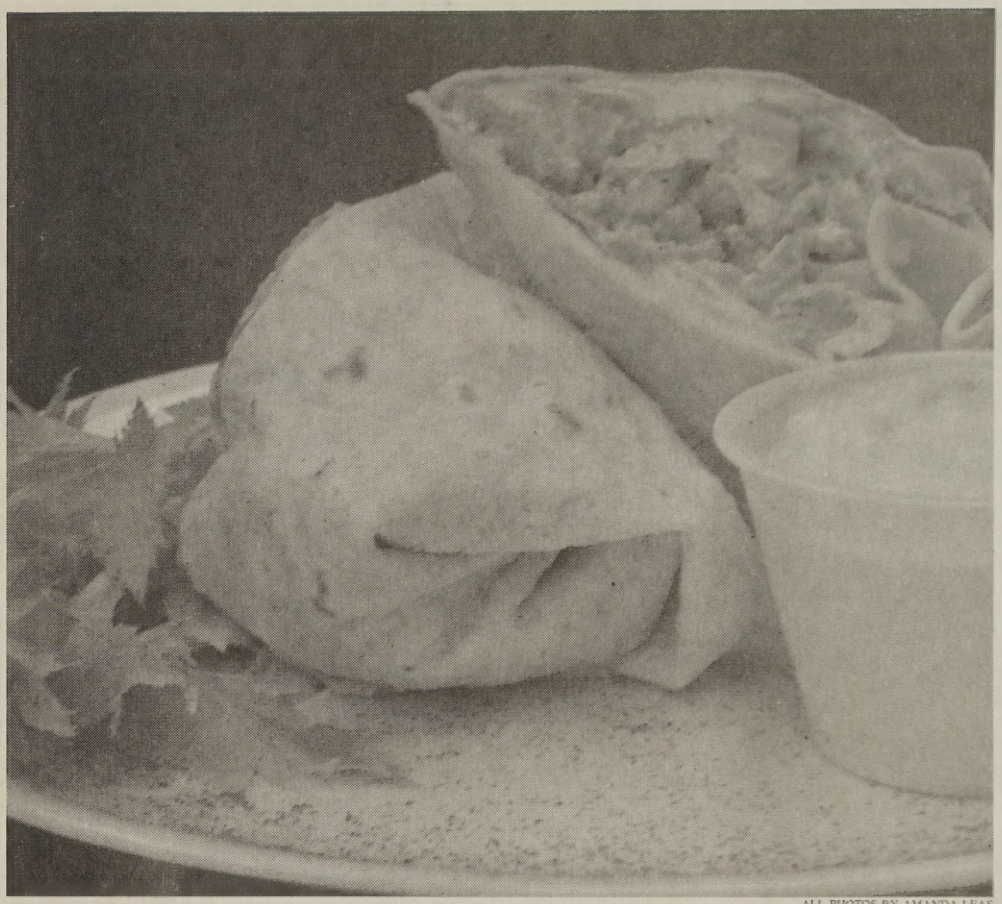


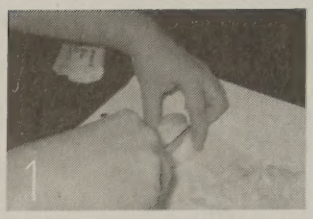
CEBOLLA'S chips were not so crispy and hardly salted compared to the other chips; however it did have a strong corn flavor to it. The salsa had a thinner consistency than that of Bandido's and Carlos O'Kelly's. There were visible pepper seeds in the salsa, making it spicier than the bottom two, but not quite good enough for the top spot.

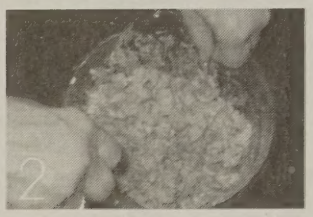
BANDIDO'S had a thin, white chip that was very crunchy. The salsa smelled of onions and cilantro, and contained chunks of both white and green onions. The taste of the salsa was not spicy, but rather sweet. There was no pepper taste, but a strong taste of onion did prevail throughout the whole salsa. Because of the sweet taste, Bandido's landed in the third place on the list.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN HERBERT

CARLOS O'KELLY'S had a very salty, white chip. The salsa was of a thicker style, and contained visible chunks of tomatos, peppers, and onions. However, the main and only taste that came out upon tasting the salsa was tomato - no other spices or mexican flavor. This was not appealing and dropped Carlos O'Kelly's to the fourth spot.



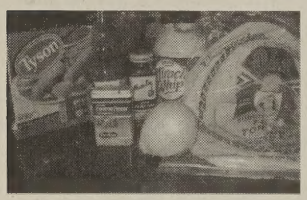




ALL PHOTOS BY AMANDA LEAS

Leas Family | BUFFALO CHICKEN WRAP

This quick and easy recipe is a favorite staple of the Amanda Leas (11) household and requires ten minutes of preparation.



Ingredients

6 lb fried chicken tenders diced
1 ½ lb diced onion
1 ½ diced celery
2 tbs celery seeds
½ tbs cayenne pepper
2½ lb mayonaise
2 cups buffalo wing sauce
15 12-inch flour tortillas

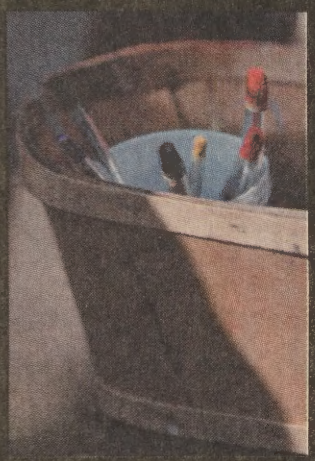
Directions

Mix all ingredients into a large bowl
Fill tortillas, then wrap, serve and have a fiesta.

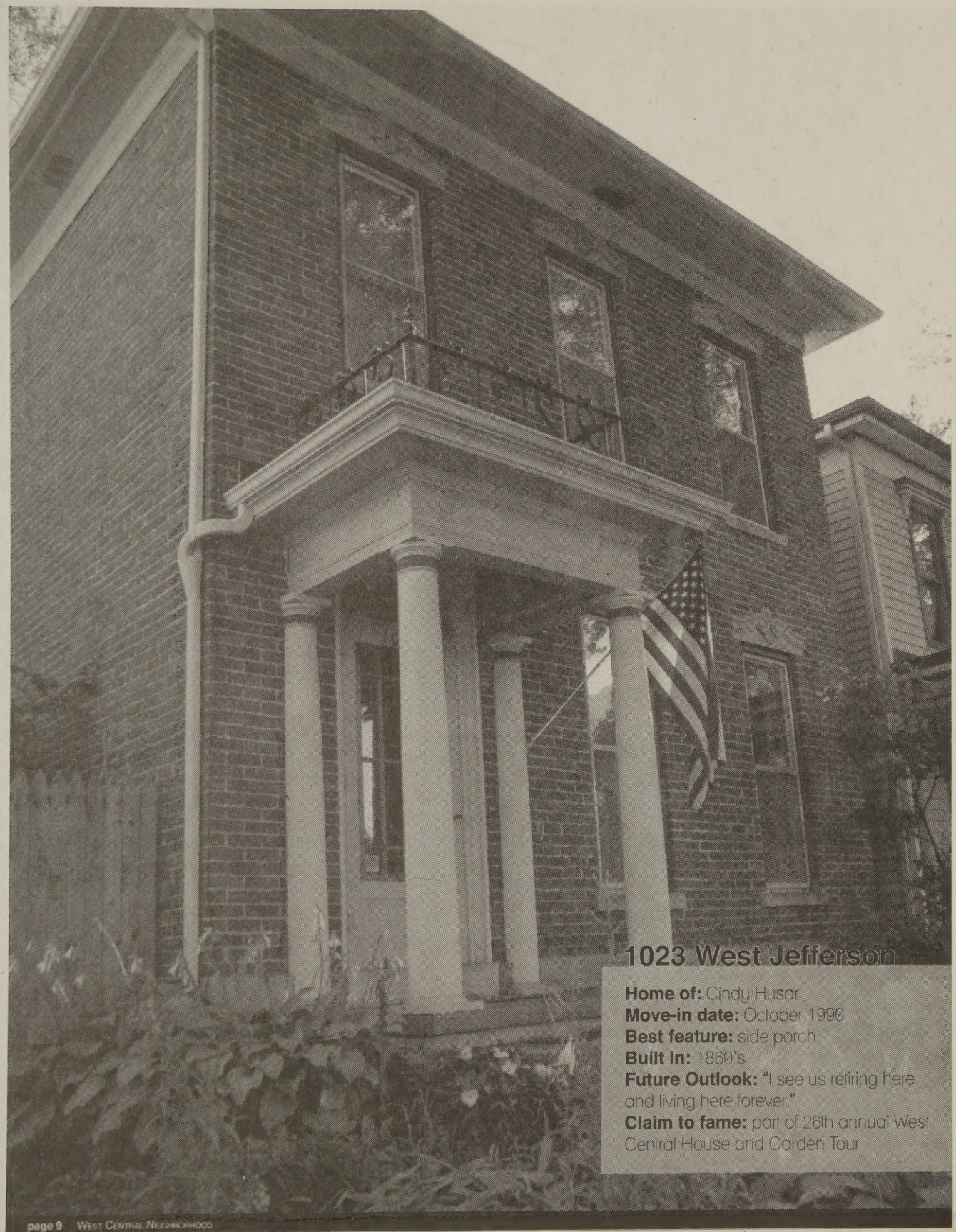
Johnny Appleseed Festival

a photo essay
by suzie reecer

Since 1974, the Johnny Appleseed Festival has brought art, food, music, and the excitement of fall to Fort Wayne.



50¢
Lemonade
Sassafras
HOT
Cold



1023 West Jefferson

Home of: Cindy Husar
Move-in date: October 1990
Best feature: side porch
Built in: 1860's
Future Outlook: "I see us retiring here and living here forever."
Claim to fame: part of 26th annual West Central House and Garden Tour

the historic West Central Neighborhood

As Harrison Square takes shape and renovations continue to rise, three teachers share their experiences about living in one of Fort Wayne's oldest areas.

ALL PHOTOS BY STEPH ZIMMERMAN

A Taste of Eden: Despite the Husar's small property, they have made full use of their backyard, which connects to their neighboring property they utilize as an art studio.

BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Finding the house of railroad engineer Thomas Dyer is not too difficult. Out in front of the house sits a brightly colored piece of abstract art on an easel right in the middle of the lawn. Dyer's house, a modest grey gable-front cottage, is accented with a bold, maroon-colored door and yellow, green and maroon-colored wooden posts that support the extending front porch. Underneath the porch overhang, a giant paintbrush suspends by a few wires and a small sign in the shape of a paint palette displays the words, "Rat Art." Dyer had been working for the lucrative railroad industry for about five years when he had this house built for him, his wife Sarah, and his four children. Unfortunately, he has not seen the house for 95 years. Thomas Dyer died in 1913 at the age of seventy-nine.

However, the house still stands today in the same if not better condition that it was in the late nineteenth century. It is just one of the many properties making up the West Central Neighborhood in downtown Fort Wayne, which has experienced a surge in renovations in the last couple decades as a result of recent historic designation and the construction of Harrison Square.

Presently, the Dryer house belongs to Fort Wayne local art-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

> My neighbors are people of all races, ages, and political backgrounds; some people speak languages other than English, practice different religions, and dress differently than I. I really like that.
> MARK HANNON

1029 West Jefferson

Home of: Mr. Hannon
Move-in date: 2006
Built in: 1870
Upcoming attention: will be part of the FW Museum of Art Trolley Tour
Original House Owner: railroad engineer Thomas Dyer

ALL PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

-ist Terry Ratliff, and Homestead English teacher, Mark Hannon. "I must say there is a certain pride of ownership that goes into renovating a home that is worthy of preservation. There is satisfaction in knowing that I am maintaining history," said Hannon, "and there is just something about spiral wooden staircases, twelve-foot ceilings, thick crown and base moldings, antique light fixtures, and big porches that I do not feel I could get in a newer home."

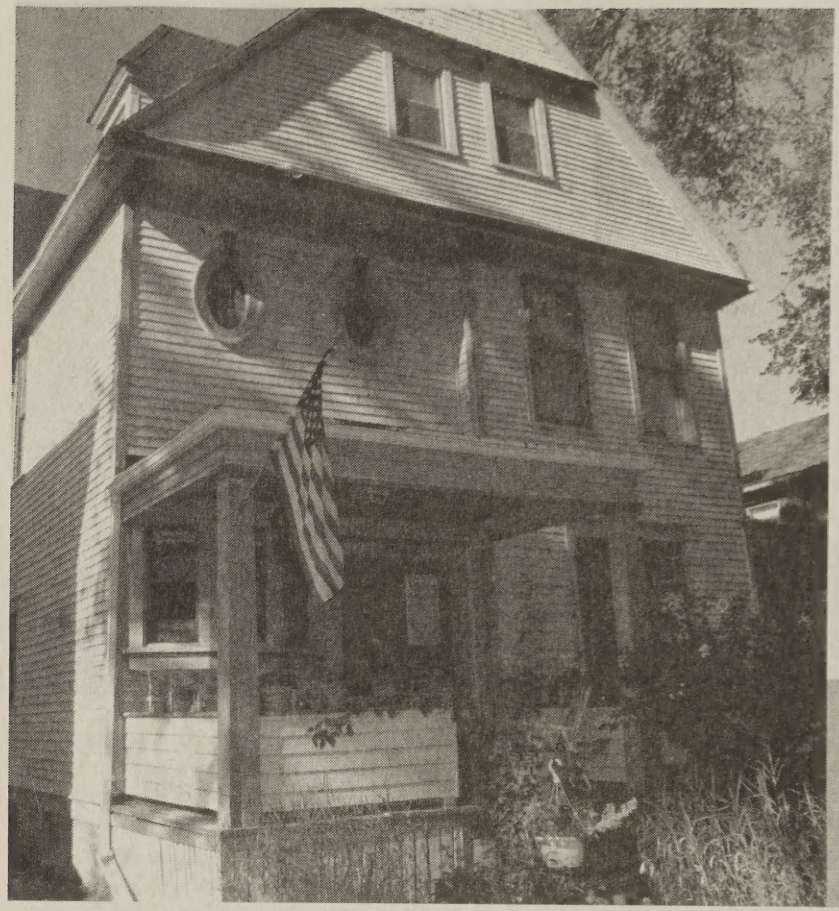
These details and the historic elements are also what attracted art teacher Cindy Husar and her husband John to West Central Neighborhood eighteen years ago. "When I grew up," said Husar, "my doctor's office was just a couple blocks north of here and I was always just fascinated with it as a little kid. It had a turret, window seats, stained glass windows, a hand carved stair rail, and fireplaces in every room. It was amazing. I really never wanted to live any place else; I always wanted to live in West Central."

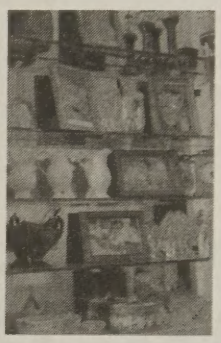
In October of 2000, ten years after they bought their first house, the Husars purchased the neighboring house on their right and converted it into an art studio. Both houses have undergone renovations and were featured in the 26th annual West Central House and Garden Tour during the first weekend in September.

When the Husars first moved into their house, they swapped out many of the 1970's and 1980's light fixtures and furniture pieces for earlier twentieth century decorations that were more historically accurate. "The historic preservation of the neighborhood is what brought us here and got us interested," said Husar who has served on the neighborhood association for twelve years. "It just takes a lot of people involved to make sure that the historic aspect of West Central is protected. Without the neighborhood association pushing for historic designation, people could do awful things."

Luckily, in the mid-1980's a portion of the West Central neighborhood was designated as a national and local historic district because of the collection of architecturally significant buildings and their importance in the development of Fort Wayne as a city. "Once [a neighborhood] is designated as a local historic district, then housing is more protected in general, property values tend to go up, and people tend to take care of their properties more; it's a very good thing," said Husar.

English teacher Jan Venderly moved into West Central Neighborhood less than a year ago, and has taken pleasure in uncovering the historic beauty of a seemingly less than perfect property. "When I came here for the first time," said Ms. Venderly, "it was really dirty; the landlord was a bit of a packrat." However, despite some of the houses rough edges, Venderly





Goddess Den: "The space is very indicative of my life right now," said Venderly who moved to West Central less than a year ago.

1020 West Washington

Home of: Jan Venderly
Move-in date: May 2008
Best feature: front porch
In retrospect...: I love coming home to it. I have absolutely no regrets about moving here.

bought the house and spent the last half year almost single-handedly converting it into what she calls her "goddess den."

"When I moved into my previous house in Southwest, I hardly did anything to it," explained Venderly. "I had somebody else mow the lawn, paint the walls, and fix the plumbing. I did not want it to be that way this time. I wanted to be involved in every part of this house. Painting can be a pain to do, but the finished product is so rewarding that it was well worth it."

Although living in West Central takes Hannon, Husar and Venderly further away from their work, they all agree that living outside of Southwest has its benefits. "Although Southwest is a great place to work, the housing stock is either very boring or really expensive," said Husar. "There are a lot of tan, taupe, beige, and white houses, and that never really appealed to us."

"When I lived in Southwest," said Venderly, "I sometimes felt like I was losing some of my privacy because I was right in the middle of where I worked. Now I'm a little more separated and I'm closer to the cultural and social aspects of downtown."

The proximity of West Central to downtown has also provided those living in West Central with an easy outlet for frequently overlooked entertainment and cultural events.

"West Central is truly within the heart of the city of Fort Wayne. I can walk or ride my bike to all the downtown festivals or to the zoo, and soon I will be able to walk five blocks to see a baseball game. Despite its reputation to the contrary, there really is much to do in downtown Fort Wayne. This weekend alone I have already walked to the International Blast and the Barr Street Market," said Hannon.

Although the increasing aesthetic appeal of West Central Neighborhood and downtown Fort Wayne is hard to argue, many are still quick to judge the area which has been commonly known as the infamous "ghetto of Fort Wayne."

"I believe that many people are afraid of the unknown, and I believe it's easy to perceive West Central's residents as people living where they are living simply because of social, economic, or legal pressures," said Hannon.

"Some people talk about the danger of living downtown," said Venderly, "but I have not had any troubles. I take certain precautions just like I would in any other area, but I figure I can take anyone who tries to mess with me, so it's not a problem."

Whether for historic appeal, personal satisfaction, or cultural surroundings, West Central Neighborhood has garnered the appeal of many homeowners and downtown enthusiasts. Thomas Dryer and the other founders of West Central Neighborhood may be gone, but their history has been carefully restored and meticulously preserved in the structures of homes.

Entertainingly inappropriate: Hilarious moments result when drama teacher Dana Marschz sets out to put on the most offensive play possible with hopes that it will spark enough controversy to save his high school drama program.

PHOTO BY WWW.MOVIES.ABOUT.COM

HAMLET 2

New movie by South Park writers strikes a dramatic funnybone

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

Rounding out a summer of comedies, Hamlet 2 looks to make a mockery of the original play while offending as many people as possible in the process. Created by one of the writers of South Park, one has a good idea of what type of humor to expect: subliminally witty and excessively profane.

In Hamlet 2, Dana Marschz, a failed actor, has been forced to give up his passion in favor of a job at a local high school as the drama teacher. However, Marschz puts on a series of terrible plays that turn his drama class into a joke. When the school cuts costs for the arts department, drama is the first class to get the axe. Not willing to accept failure any longer, Marschz, along with his class of inner-city trouble makers, set out to create the most offensive play of all time in hopes of sparking enough controversy to save their drama program. It sounds like a standard overcome-all-the-odds plot on paper, but the unique characters, situations, and plot twists help to give Hamlet 2 an interesting premise.

As should be evident by the creators' previous credentials, Hamlet 2 earns its R rating and then some. There is plenty of profanity, along with sexual references, drug use, and even very brief nudity. However, compared to most R rated comedies, the humor is fairly tasteful and uses the obscenity to its advantage, as opposed to abusing it. Although the language and adult content are fairly constant throughout, laughs usually accompany the vulgarity, and the premise of the movie would not make any sense without it. The humor is intelligent; it is not exactly Shakespearian, but the experienced writers knew how to appeal to their learned audience without alienating their less mature viewers. Oddly, the movie is marketed as being offensive to the majority of its audience, but with the exception of a few societal groups, Hamlet 2 comes off as fairly tame with respect to racial and social discrimination.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the movie is when the drama class actually puts on the play. The entire community assembles to watch, criticize, or protest the performance. The musical, technically a sequel to the original Hamlet, is an outrageous spoof of both the original Shakespearian play and high school in general. The songs composed by Marschz are hilarious and serve as metaphors to his own personal struggles. These songs are made even funnier by the inner city kids and over-enthusiastic drama students collaborating in this masterpiece of filth. The musical is the most exciting part of the movie because the pace of the humor and action increases considerably compared to the rest of the film.

Overall, Hamlet 2 fulfills its promises of being both offensive and humorous, though it is reasonable to expect more of both, considering the crew's credentials. Whether one hates, loves, or could care less about plays or musicals, Hamlet 2 is worth watching for any fan of comedies and likely has Bill Shakespeare rolling over in his grave.

PHOTO BY HTTP://ARTISTICVIEWS.FORUMFREE.NET

Vampire Love: Breaking Dawn is the fourth installment in the Twilight series, and centers around the relationship between main characters Bella and Edward.

BREAKING DAWN

by stephenie meyer

Fourth and final installment of vampire series draws hoards of dedicated fans to midnight release party and leaves readers with mixed feelings about Bella-Edward relationship.

BY MEGAN HERBERT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fans poured into Barnes and Noble stores and other book stores to be the first to get their hands on the highly anticipated book, Breaking Dawn. Dawn is the fourth installment of the popular series by Stephenie Meyer. This book follows the best sellers, Twilight, New Moon, and Eclipse.

To celebrate the releasing of the book on August 2, Barnes and Noble had a release party with activities such as best dressed contests. The book officially came out at midnight, and crowds lined up to purchase their copies.

As far as the 754 page book goes, readers could not put the book down. Edward gets his wish of marrying Bella. Bella gets pregnant with a child which she later, regrettably, calls Nessie, and Jacob finds his place in Bella's world where both can be happy. After some surprise events at the honeymoon, Bella gets her wish of becoming a vampire.

Jacob becomes intermingled into the storyline beginning at the start of the book with his love for Bella. However, by the end of the book, he is imprinted. It would seem that the family could live happily ever after for the rest of eternity, but a series of circumstances involving Nessie angers the Volturi. Everyone on the guard comes to fight, but Bella's gift ends up saving Cullens. Her shield holds off their attacks to make them see what they are missing.

The book concludes with Bella and Edward getting their long awaited happily ever after. They live in their own little cabin in the forest where they plan to spend the rest of eternity together.

Breaking Dawn got mixed reviews from audiences. Some felt the author ruined what she had going for the unlikely couple, and others say she wrote the best ending imaginable for the pair.

A movie about the first book is being made, and is set to hit theaters November 21, 2008, recently moved up from its original December 21 date. Another book called Midnight Sun is also being written, not as another sequel but as Edward's point of view of the first book, Twilight.

A LOOK**INSIDE**

DIALOGUE FROM BREAKING DAWN

ALICE: I'll play you for it. Rock, paper, scissors.
EDWARD: Why don't you just tell me who wins?
ALICE: I do. Excellent.

TWILIGHT**CAST**

CAST FOR NOVEMBER MOVIE BASED ON FIRST BOOK

BELLA SWAN: Kristen Stewart
EDWARD CULLEN: Robert Pattinson
JACOB BLACK: Taylor Lautner

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 4 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

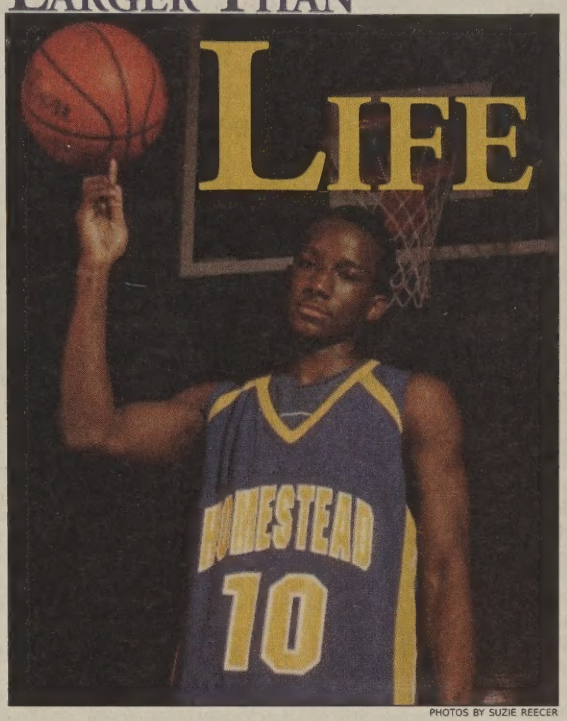
Friday, October 24, 2008

Larger Than Life

"Rodney, you are truly loved and missed down here and you will never be forgotten."

SHARDE CARLISLE

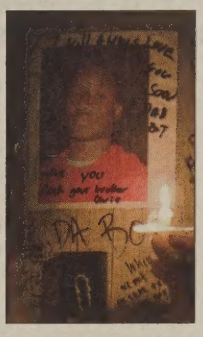
At the scene of the accident on Dicke Road, students have hung Thompson's basketball sneakers by their shoestrings.



PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

"Why, Rodney? Why'd it have to be you? You didn't deserve to go like this."

DELIA CURVIN



Within hours of his death, Thompson's friends and family created a makeshift memorial at the site of the car crash.

The flashing blue and red lights of the police cars shined bright into my eyes as I slowly approached the crash site. A group of around 75 students stood glassy-eyed and silent, just staring at the pole that stood a mere few feet away from Dicke Road.

Candles were being held by most of the onlookers. I grabbed one and looked for someone to hug. As the hot wax dripped onto my fingers and hardened on my knuckles, I noticed the flowers, yearbooks, pictures and shards of glass sat at the base of the pole. Messages and signatures were scribbled, a picture of him was taped and a cross with his name and initials was nailed to that utility pole. And there was the basketball I had set out only a day earlier, signed by members of the basketball team and other friends. It was October 19. Had it really been two days since Rodney Thompson (12) left us? Had it really been two days since he lost control behind the wheel of his Mercury Sable and crashed into this pole we were now standing around, remembering his life? The reality was starting to set in. He was gone, and none of us knew why.

Two days earlier, I had received the text saying Rodney had passed.

"No way," I thought. "Not Rodney Thompson. It must be a different Rodney."

{ *Chris Ray recalls his experiences with Rodney Thompson , continued on 2a* }

Anthis students participate in HOSA elections

Vocational school's student government has a 'lot of ideas' for community outreach

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

Student government is the most obvious and most direct way for students to dictate what goes on at school. Although Homestead has a student government of its own, students are also given the opportunity to run for student government at the Anthis Career Center.

Several students from Homestead were elected to office in Anthis' Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) program, which oversees the activities of the health programs at Anthis. These students look to improve both Anthis itself and the surrounding community.

"We choose the activities we want to do and we find a way to get them done," President of HOSA, Emily Karns (12), said. "It's mostly community service stuff. Right now, for example, we're working on filling boxes with toys and hard candies and little items for kids who are less fortunate so that they can also get something for the winter holidays."

> "It is refreshing to see students genuinely care about their academic environment and make efforts to improve it."
>
> **KATE BIENZ (12)**
> HOSA Vice President

Along with helping the community, HOSA has planned several exciting events for Anthis students.

"We're going to have speakers come and talk, and we're hopefully going to do a variety show. We just have a lot of ideas," Vice President, Kate Bienz (12), said. "It is refreshing to see students genuinely care about their academic environment and make efforts to improve it."

Although particulars of their jobs vary, members of HOSA have fairly similar reasons for pursuing their respective positions.

"I joined HOSA because I thought it would be a good oppor-

HOSA, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

New board acts as Internet gateway

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Because students rarely have the opportunity to do hands-on assignments in class, a new computer tool called the SMART Board was installed in the front of the IMC classroom, encouraging students to become more involved in their education with the touch of a screen.

Purchased with a grant from the Library Service Technology Act, the SMART Board is like a normal white

New Board, continued on 2a

BRIEFS

TIME TO FALL BACK
Because summer is coming to a close, the sun has begun to rise later and set earlier. With daylight saving time ending, mornings will have added daylight due to time changes. Benefits include going to work and school when the sun is up as well as a reduction in traffic fatalities. Daylight saving time ends on Sunday Nov. 2, so clocks should be set back one hour.

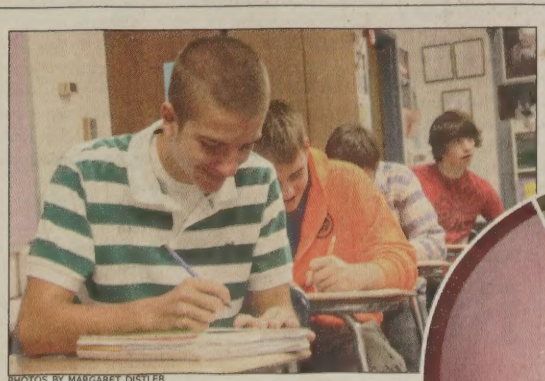
SPELLERS PLACE THIRD
The Spell Bowl team placed third at the Oct. 20 meet at Heritage High School. One participant shy of the usual ten-person squad, the team spelled 55 words correct throughout nine rounds, landing two points behind the winner in their division. Noteworthy spellers include Dheevena Reddy (12), who spelled all nine of her competition words correctly, and Nikolette Lipsey (12), who spelled seven words correctly.

NEW CONFERENCE TWIST
Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Thursday Oct. 30 and Friday Oct. 31. Students will attend school and be dismissed at 10:50 am on both days. This year, conference scheduling has changed. Instead of mailing letters to every student, parents sign up for conferences online. Trying to cut down costs due to budget loss, times and days can easily be chosen on Powerschool.

NHS TUTORING
Every Tuesday and Thursday, National Honors Society members are offering a free tutoring service in the library. Tutoring runs from 7:10 a.m. to the start of school and dismissal to 3:15 p.m.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Rodney Thompson Student Tributes
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Ed Board, Rule of a Spouse, One-Minute Bell, Top Five Trick-or-Treating Neighborhoods
PAGE 4A, Life: Behind the Scenes at Haunted Cave, Nurse For a Day, Students' Budget Crunches
PAGE 5A, Life: Fall Festival of Bands, Technical Side of Theater
PAGE 6A, Sports: Girls' Soccer, Boys' Football
PAGE 7A, Sports: Boys' Soccer, Cross Country, Boys' Tennis
PAGE 8A, Feature: Three Rivers Shivers: Journalists submerge themselves in underbelly of Allen County ghost hunting scene

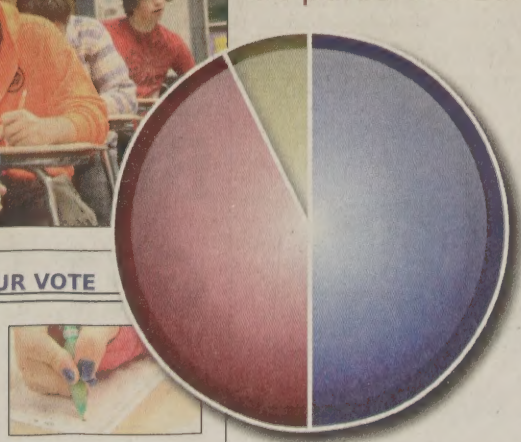


PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR VOTE

1. Barack Obama - 746 votes
2. John McCain - 650 votes
3. No Choice / Other - 105 votes

Total votes: 1,501
Student Response Rate: 71.14%



Students choose Obama

50 percent of school casts vote for Democratic candidate

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

With debates heating up and students taking sides, the 2008 election is in full swing. Attaining exactly fifty percent of student votes, Barack Obama beat out John McCain, who received only forty-three percent of votes. The remaining seven percent were tallied as "other" or "undecided."

Highly predicted among the student body as the front runner, Obama has gained the appeal of teen voters who are eager to ask him questions concerning his campaign and agenda.

"I thought Obama would win because teenagers tend to like change, and I think that is what most people want," Juan Guzman (11) said. "I would like to ask him what he would do for me and all the teenagers that will one day suffer the consequences of this election."

With only days remaining until the election, students and staff alike show much concern about the candidates and the effects their appointment will have on our country.

"I would like to ask both candidates how you can balance the budget while promising new spending," Keith Potter, government teacher, said. "Also, I would like to ask Obama how he can give a tax break to ninety-five percent of the people, when forty percent do not pay taxes."

HHS Votes, continued on 2a

R.	"I talked to Rodney every day, and he always put a smile on my face. His smile and sweet personality could brighten up anyone's day. I love you Rodney." **KYLIE KITCHIN**	"I don't think that I ever heard one negative thing said about the guy. He... made me genuinely happy every time I had the pleasure of talking to him." **KELSEY SPECHT**	1980 - 2008
"He was always joking around and laughing—it's hard to picture him any other way. He will never truly be gone as long as he remains in our thoughts. Rodney will always be remembered." **KRISTEN KINZER**	O.	"I still can't believe you left me; you always did take people by surprise. You know that you are truly loved and missed down here and you will never be forgotten. I love you Lil' Rock, "Fly High" man." **SHARDE CARLISLE**	"No matter what was going on, you made everyone forget about the bad and roll with the good. Well Rod, you ended on a great note. You were loved by all and there's no doubt we're going to miss you more than words can describe." **ANN CUTAIA**
"And I don't like this change, it's hard, but I know you're in a better place. Lunch just hadn't been the same. Gone, but never forgotten, never." **MATT SHARP**	"I will ever forget you. You were an amazing person with a beautiful soul. You're in a better place now, and I'll see you up there big guy." **LIZ TURKETTE**	"I won't touch a basketball this season without thinking of you. This year's team will never back down from anything in your memory." **ALBERT JENNINGS**	T.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Students gathered at the crash site to mourn Thompson. They had a candlelight memorial and then spelled his initials using cups on the fence.

R.O.T.: IN REMEMBRANCE CONTINUED FROM 1A

The problem was, I didn't know any other Rodney. There really was only one Rodney to me. I tried to make sense of it. How could Rodney be gone? He was a person who one would not expect to die young. He had a fun-loving attitude that made everyone like him or love him.

Always looking to crack a joke, Rodney knew how to put a smile on someone's face like a teenager knows how to text. Whether it came to making a serious moment into a laughing matter or simply letting that bright smile of his shine, he knew how to spread the joy. His love for life made him somebody who people looked up to and made him a great friend to many.

His good spirits ranged from in the classrooms to on the basketball court. In class, he was a joy for many teachers to have. With good grades on his report cards, Rodney had the potential to do great things in life. His humor made the learning environment enjoyable to everyone. On the basketball court, he brought the same demeanor. His hard-working attitude translated into him making the junior varsity team as a sophomore and the varsity team as a junior after being cut freshmen year. But with most things in his life, Rodney's sense of humor showed during practices and games, when he would explain how fast he was on the court.

"I'm like 'pium.' Ain't nothing faster than 'pium,'" Rodney would say. At first, guys on the team were somewhat confused. After he explained to us that 'pium' sounded like something going really fast by your ear, his teammates couldn't help but laugh. And when it came to my mom's brownies after basketball games? He was always the first in line to grab his share, usually three or four, and say, "Thank you Mrs. Ray." That's just how he was. He was always looking to brighten someone's day.

On October 18, tears flowed from Diveeta Thompson's eyes. Her son was gone. When I stopped by to deliver some flowers and a card, the mood was saddening. At sight of the flowers and card, she gripped me tight and hugged me for a few moments. On the fireplace mantle, pictures of Imani, Rodney's first grade sister, sat, as well as pictures of Rodney with Diveeta. Pictures of Rodney on the basketball team at Woodside Middle School. After letting me go, her hands shook as she opened the card. Reading only a few lines before breaking down again, Diveeta asked a family member to read the card to her. As she listened to the words, Diveeta could not help but cry some more. She did have one additional thing to say: "Lucky for you, I had someone do my hair today. I looked like a mess earlier." I could see where Rodney got his sense of humor.

For a school day, Monday, October 20 was especially quiet and eerie. Signs of tears could be seen from the eyes of many, as people were covered in blue, Rodney's favorite color. His parking spot was roped off as a makeshift memorial was set up, complete with a cross, his initials, messages from people, white roses and candles. As I walked into school, my emotions took over. I walked into Mr. Lines's classroom, who had coached Rodney and me for the past two years in basketball, and cried in his arms. My teammate, my friend was gone. Mrs. Hamilton was the next to console me, as I once again cried in her arms.

As I sat in student services, the counselors brought in a large poster for people to sign. I wrote my message and lackadaisically returned to class. I kept it together until fourth period, when Mrs. de Calonne asked us to talk about how great of a friend he was. I returned to student services and saw the poster filled with messages to Rodney. A few crosses with the words, "One Love," were scrawled on the paper.

Like the lyrics to Bob Marley's "One Love" say, we need to, "...come together and feel all right." We need to, "...give thanks and praise to the Lord and we will feel all right." If Rodney's death can teach us anything, it is that we need to live life to its fullest every day. Smile like he did, joke like he did, work hard like he did and influence people like he did. We should not mourn his death, but celebrate his life, for his life is worth celebrating. Keep him in your heart. It's tough when somebody leaves us so quickly, so soon. But like he said, "I'm like 'pium.' Ain't nothing faster than 'pium.'" We will all see you soon, Rodney. Rest in Peace.

HHS VOTES CONTINUED FROM 1A

wide election, it is yet to be determined whether this outcome will be mirrored on Nov. 4. While some students believe that the Homestead election provides an accurate depiction of the national election, others think that such an extrapolation is unpredictable because only one age group was represented.

"Homestead is only a small population compared to the whole nation," Ryan Hosler (11) said.

Nevertheless, despite its inability to clearly predict the next president, the school- wide election was believed by many students to be an accurate portrayal of their opinions.

"Homestead students will vote for whom they think is the best candidate, and not vote just because of the party," Guzman said.

Because many students are either underage or just recently eligible to vote, they are less influenced by the persuasion of political parties. Making their decisions free of partisan bias, most students voted according to their stance on issues of concern, rather than the candidates themselves.

One of the major issues in which students are concerned with is the recession in our economy.

"I am most concerned about the economy because soon high school students will be entering the workforce," Guzman said.

In a competitive workforce with high rates of unemployment, students have an increasingly difficult time finding suitable jobs. However, even those who already have part-time jobs are feeling the mounting effects of our struggling economy. As taxes continue to rise, many students find that they have less money available to spend on luxuries.

"Homestead students will vote for whom they think is the best candidate, and not vote just because of the party."
JUAN GUZMAN (11)
Student

"I have a job and [paying] taxes [is undesirable] ," Molly Smith (11) said.

Working all week and making minimum wage, students find it difficult to afford anything more than costly necessities. With such bleak prospects, many feel that drastic political change is necessary to avoid a severe depression.

"It's important that we get a president that can turn the economy around to avoid another depression," Hosler said.

Aware that the results of this year's election will have significant effects on their lives, students are concerned about the legitimacy of the proposals the candidates have made.

"I would like to ask Obama about how the tax cuts he proposes will help the average family," Hosler said.

Preoccupied with economic issues like taxes and national debt, many Americans have overlooked the necessity of maintaining strong national security.

"Just because we haven't been attacked in seven years doesn't mean it won't happen again," Potter said.

At the conclusion of the battle for the White House, either McCain or Obama will be faced with a myriad of critical decisions. Awaiting the results of the national election, students and faculty alike are anxious to see who will answer our nation's call.

NEW BOARD CONTINUED FROM 1A

board on which teachers write; however, it is attached to a computer and the internet. Projected upon the white board is

what looks appears to be a normal computer screen. With the touch of a hand, students and faculty members alike can browse the desktop and surf the web. When something needs to be typed, there is a button that can be pressed for the digital keyboard to appear on the SMART Board. There are also digital pens that students and teachers can use to write on the board.

Excited about having this high tech device available for use, many teachers and administrators are anxious for students to explore the board's many options.

"I think the new touch screen computer is a really cool tool," Kaleigh Farkas (10) said. "I've never seen anything like it before."

Along with providing a fun learning experience, the SMART Board is a useful teaching tool, allowing staff to manually show students step-by-step instructions about how to perform a task. When a student misses a class period or is having a hard time understanding the material learned in the IMC, their teacher can simply record their lesson and post it for review on the SMART Board as additional help. Using the board, students are now able to see the same presentation that their teacher performed anytime they wish. Teachers can also record audio input, which helps students understand what they are doing more thoroughly.

Aiding students and teachers alike, the SMART Board is available for use at anytime upon reservation.

"In the past, when I would demonstrate data bases, I would use the LCD projector," Ms. Kovatch, librarian, said. "With the SMART Board, students are the ones that are utilizing the technology and getting into the data bases and doing the searches in their own time, so that it is more applicable to [the students] instead of me just talking to them."

Many people believe this interactive board will have expansive benefits in academic achievement and computer comprehension.

"One of the goals is to put the technology where it is open, and available to all students and teachers," Mrs. Shinabarger said. "Ms. Kovatch will use it for the bulk of the time, but it is available for other classes to come in and use it. The whole idea is to increase collaborative efforts between students, faculty and the outside world."

HOSA CONTINUED FROM 1A

tunity for what I want to do in the future, which is to be a physician's assistant," Secretary, Grace Talley (12), said. "I figured that anything medical I could get my hands on would look good."

Bienz shares similar motives for becoming more active at Anthis.

"I want to become a nurse, and taking the CNA program reaffirms that being a nurse is what I want to do," Bienz said. "It has so far, so that's good."

Whereas some students have joined in the pursuit of academic and career interests, Karns claims to have joined to help both herself and her classmates.

"I get a ton of respect from my classmates, and they really look up to me," Karns said. "I'm the 'go to girl' when it comes to help. If they have a question on their homework, it's always, 'ask Emily.' I feel like I'm pretty helpful and that I could use that talent to help not just my class, but all of the health classes at Anthis,"

Karns also explains the benefits of her efforts that are already taking effect.

"With a lot of the inner city school population, it's a whole new world," Karns said. "I'm planning on trying to help with some of the attitudes, and honestly, I have actually seen change from a lot of people, so little by little I can see improvement. I'm also trying to break down some of the cliques because in the medical world, or any world for that matter, you have to know how to work with everyone. You have to learn to take a step out of your comfort zone. It's a slow process, but I can already see some of the barriers being broken and it's pretty neat."

PHOTO BY M. DISTLER

An Anthis student visits his locker.

Espresso Gallery
COFFEE ROASTERS
NEXT MOCHA MONDAY IS OCTOBER 27

BUY ANY DRINK
GET ONE FREE
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE
EXPIRES NOVEMBER 14

LOCATIONS
ILLINOIS ROAD
DUPONT ROAD
JEFFERSON BLVD.

OPINION

one-minute bell threatened, potential first ladies take on historic role, 3a

page 3a
issue 4 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

First Ladies

Trick-or-Treating

One-minute bell

Friday, October 24, 2008.

PHOTO HTTP://CACHE.DAYLIFE.COM

Cindy McCain speaks on behalf of husband John McCain at RNC.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Michelle Obama campaigns for husband Barack in Fort Wayne.

Behind every great man

Candidates' wives continue to prove that first ladies are second in command

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

The second most powerful position in the United States will be filled by an unelected woman.

Often evaluated for their poise and fashion, the first lady is not just another pretty face --first ladies have the ear of the president. They can influence policies, appointments and almost any other decision. They are given instantaneous fame, connections with the most influential leaders in the world and a platform from which they can progress any personal agenda they choose. And yet, there is no First Ladies debate, nor is there an equally constant critical analysis of their values by the media and, more importantly, by the citizenry. While cabinet members, too, are selected, not elected, their appointment is based off of their knowledge in the field; not simply how charming their personality is. More importantly, spouses are not fired for their frankness. They can tell the president his idea is stupid, or that he should pursue a different course, all while speaking candidly without consequence. Cabinet members, however, must censor themselves due to the necessary inhibitions of rank and respectful formality.

Ever since Abigail Adams demanded that her husband John "remember the ladies," wives of presidents have been in positions of significant influence. Eleanor Roosevelt was her polio-stricken husband's informant on the condition of life during the Great Depression, essentially controlling his decision as to if and how much government action needed to take place. Nancy Reagan controlled Ronald's schedule, and played a crucial part in encouraging friendship with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, a diplomatic relationship responsible for an arms reduction treaty.

Given the above, voters should give due consideration to not only the name on the ballot, but also the most treasured advisor that comes attached. Spouses are part of the packaged deal and as such, should be examined with equal intensity.

Michelle Obama has been credited throughout this campaign as "Barack's rock," someone who keeps him grounded and in touch with reality. However, she has also expressed a number of opinions that we can only (falsely) hope Barack does not share.

"For the first time in my adult life, I am proud of my country." Michelle expressed these sentiments in response to Barack's acceptance of the Democratic nomination.

I would hate to think that Mrs. Obama's idea of keeping Barack grounded is dragging him back down to the "reality" of how the greatest democracy on Earth simply hasn't done anything right.

This is the woman who is his partner, his advisor and his surrogate.

In the past, first ladies have addressed education and womens' rights. This election, Mrs. Obama has expressed her interest in interviews and speeches towards the focus on helping working mothers. Cindy McCain has emphasized the importance of giving families competitive choices in education.

Again, these matron crusades reflect each candidate's approach to the presidency. Obama will focus on taking care of the lower class. McCain will restore the fundamentals of capitalism.

Which is more American?

{ Famous Firsts }

Eleanor Roosevelt
1933-1945

Marnie Eisenhower
1953-1961

Jackie O. Kennedy
1961-1963

Nancy Reagan
1981-1989

Hillary Clinton
1993-2001

Is there a danger in hurrying to classes?

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

As over two thousand students walk the halls during passing periods, the traffic prevents running in the hallways. However, action is now being considered to affect the entire student body over the small amount of time at the end of the passing period, the only time when running is even an option. The rush to get to class has now caused the administration to consider removing the one-minute bell, and rid the school of this apparently hazardous activity.

The trade-off for the additional bell for administration is accepting some rushing to get to class, or accepting the increased tardies. I would assume that since the goal of high school is to educate, the value is placed on higher attendance.

The fear is that running in the hallways poses safety concerns for students. However, this minuscule concern is not reason enough to remove the bell and let classes endure increased tardies, which cut down on class time. The one minute bell is one of the few changes to have a positive acceptance by the student body, but now even that is lingering.

After four years of high school, I have not been able to clearly see that the one-minute bell is the of cause running. Many of the students who rush to class today were also rushing to class before the addition of the bell. It cannot be expected that by removing the bell, the rush at the end of the passing period will be eliminated. Therefore, removing the bell should not be taken over the mere hope to see a change. The reason that rushing is believed to be a consequence of the bell is probably only because we are looking for it to be one.

The fact that running to class has existed for a long time also brings up the question as to what real danger it proposes. I have seen hallway accidents caused by students jumping on each others' back packs or by students unzipping others students' back packs, but never one caused by the rush to get to class. Naturally, there is an increased risk of accidents when students rush, but what is the worst possible outcome? After hearing the bell, a student realizes that he has wasted too much time and rushes to his next class. Through the empty hallway, the student trips but gets up and arrives to class--no harm done. The dangers of rushing to class are not only minuscule but also have harmless consequences; neither of which is a sufficient enough reason to accept more tardies.

Questioning whether to take a risk on a decision with such small consequences is not a valid option. Whether it is because of inexperience or simply a lack of correctly understanding the problem, the administration does not seem to be able to make the correct decision on this issue. The excuse of safety concerns that threatens to cancel the additional bell is a slippery slope towards more inane decisions that are based on unproven connections. Such frivolous subjects should be ignored to concentrate on more important decisions; those that actually affect the goal of a public school: to educate.

Ed board: Is trick-or-treating a childhood pastime or a tradition for all ages?

Let's face it: Halloween has become an obligation. As a result, we have dragged our feet through the cultural solidity that is offering confectionery treats to front door visitors.

The days of blistered feet and torn pillow cases are long gone; instead, they have been perennially replaced by gas-guzzling Sport Utility Vehicles and plastic candy receptacles. We no longer gleefully dash from house to house, readjusting our masks after every ridge in the neighborhood lawns. Children scream their greetings at locked front doors and empty baskets. Why? The answer is quite simple: the season of orange and brown has brought out the spirit of Ebenezer Scrooge two months early.

In the center of the drudgery lies us, the Lil' Wayne-quoting, Grey's Anatomy-obsessing, Sarah Palin-bashing youth of cynicism. The problem is not a matter of maturity, though; as long as we all believe in Peter Pan and his squeaky-voiced disciples, we will always be children on the inside. It is possible to outgrow trick-or-treating, but in a culture that has strayed so far from the tradition, one must not even bother initiating the debate.

Regardless, certain factors must be observed when making the decision. If the teenager displays no effort in the costume department, then trick-or-treating is out of the question for them. If they are only seeking an endless trail of mini Snickers bars and Skittles bags, then they might as well make the trek to their local Walgreens. If they are only knocking on doors for the sake of being seen by their peers as witty teens impersonating their formative years, then they would be better off nugging a backpack until its seams detach. At the end of the night, they should not be satisfied, for no child is satisfied after their final doorbell ring.

Although trick-or-treating knows no age, it does know heart—there's no cutoff date for childhood.

TOP 5 PLACES TO TRICK-OR-TREAT

To help you plan your trick-or-treating route for next Friday, we asked students which neighborhoods would help maximize candy accumulation.

1. Sycamore Hills
2. Haverhill
3. Inverness Lakes
4. Eagle Creek
5. Chestnut Hills

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL
HALEY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR
ANDREW WEISS

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
ZACH VESSELS

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
MOLLY ZWEIG

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

band competes in festival of bands, drama dept. prepares for play, 5a

page 4a
issue 4 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Band

A Day in the Life

Technical Theater

Friday, October 24, 2008

Spooky attraction continues to serve up boos to scared students

BY MOLLY ZWEIG AND FLOR ORTEGA
WRITERS

Ear-splitting screams, blood-splattered floors, and stomach-wrenching terrors are staples of haunted establishments around Fort Wayne during the Halloween season. These caves, hospitals, jails and castles induce fear using optical illusions, but find their staff of screamers helps to complete the nightmare.

"Most [Haunted Cave employees] arrive about an hour early," Russ Gusching, one of the Haunted Cave managers, said. All employees have to sign a waiver stating that any injuries they incur are not the responsibility of the Haunted Cave.

"We have a fun, but in a professional atmosphere," Brandon "Jesus" Swangin, employee, said. Most screamers are over the age of fifteen and are local high school students. Scfeamers volunteer and are recruited through family, friends or customers who come to get scared.

"I went through [the Haunted Cave] two years ago and a guy asked me to work here," Zach Johnson, Northrop junior and employee, said.

At the Haunted Cave, the workers meet in the office area before the evening's scaring begins. Most have some kind of acting experience that helps them get into character as zombies, clowns or scary souls. In the office, ghoul, clown and demon masks hang alongside where the standard black robes are kept. .

All of the employees have his or her name on magnets, which are put on a whiteboard next to the room he or she plans on working. Different rooms at the Haunted Cave require varying numbers of employees and other special skills.

"I normally work in the Dot Room," Danyelle Ramer, Elmhurst senior and employee, said. The Dot Room is essentially a maze where glow-in-the-dark dots are painted on bars to confuse those attempting to navigate them. Employees lurk between these bars and in the maze to scare patrons by screaming or cackling, making the Dot Room the most coveted room to work.

The Haunted Cave also features illusions and effects that are not employee-driven. One room in the cave is painted completely white and filled with fog, causing mad havoc for passers by. Loud, motion-activated air go off at certain points in the cave to send chills up visitors' spines. One of the motifs found throughout is the signature, crumpled brown paper ceiling, which gives a realistic cave-like feeling. The Haunted Cave, which has scared people of all ages for 11 seasons, is constantly in search of new thrills to add to the excitement.

"We like to change things around from year to year," Gusching said. "[The Haunted Cave] is a year-long hobby." Gusching and other managers usually take November and December off, and start working again to maintain attractions in working order every other weekend in January.

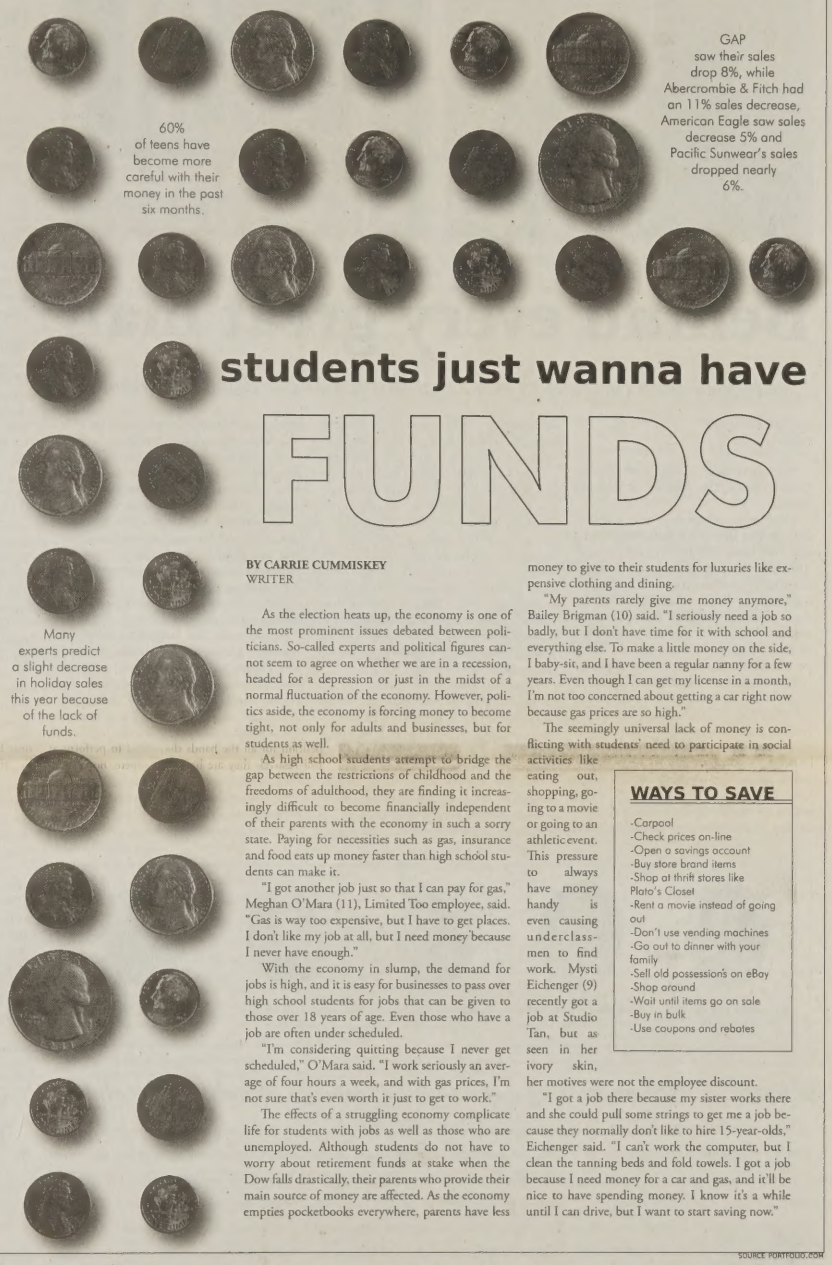
One of the highlights of the Haunted Cave is the Vortex Room, where people walk on a bridge which has a large felt drum spinning around it. This gives the illusion that people are moving, and makes it difficult for them to perform simple tasks such as tying their shoes, which employees ask them to do before allowing them to pass.

"I like to work with the body bags," Jenna Sarrazin, South Side senior and employee, said. The Dead Body Room hosts several different carcasses and displays them in different ways, including a bone rack that rotates to expose various bones with blood. Along a corridor, a floor piece triggers a body to come flying toward unsuspecting guests.

Regardless of the spooks found within the cave, employees still appreciate their jobs.

"I enjoy screaming at people and popping out of nowhere," Kody Elam, Wayne High School senior and employee, said. Workers become accustomed to asthma attacks, fainting, and other fear-induced side effects. They affectionately strive for the "golden trouser award," an honor given to the screamer who is able to cause an unfortunate visitor to soil his or her pants.

For those looking for scares this Halloween, fright can be found just around the corner.


60% of teens have become more careful with their money in the past six months.
GAP saw their sales drop 8%, while Abercrombie & Fitch had an 11% sales decrease, American Eagle saw sales decrease 5% and Pacific Sunwear's sales dropped nearly 6%.
Many experts predict a slight decrease in holiday sales this year because of the lack of funds.

students just wanna have FUNDS

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

As the election heats up, the economy is one of the most prominent issues debated between politicians. So-called experts and political figures cannot seem to agree on whether we are in a recession, headed for a depression or just in the midst of a normal fluctuation of the economy. However, politics aside, the economy is forcing money to become tight, not only for adults and businesses, but for students as well.

As high school students attempt to bridge the gap between the restrictions of childhood and the freedoms of adulthood, they are finding it increasingly difficult to become financially independent of their parents with the economy in such a sorry state. Paying for necessities such as gas, insurance and food eats up money faster than high school students can make it.

"I got another job just so that I can pay for gas," Meghan O'Mara (11), Limited Too employee, said. "Gas is way too expensive, but I have to get places. I don't like my job at all, but I need money because I never have enough."

With the economy in slump, the demand for jobs is high, and it is easy for businesses to pass over high school students for jobs that can be given to those over 18 years of age. Even those who have a job are often under scheduled.

"I'm considering quitting because I never get scheduled," O'Mara said. "I work seriously an average of four hours a week, and with gas prices, I'm not sure that's even worth it just to get to work."

The effects of a struggling economy complicate life for students with jobs as well as those who are unemployed. Although students do not have to worry about retirement funds at stake when the Dow falls drastically, their parents who provide their main source of money are affected. As the economy empties pocketbooks everywhere, parents have less money to give to their students for luxuries like expensive clothing and dining.

"My parents rarely give me money anymore," Bailey Brigman (10) said. "I seriously need a job so badly, but I don't have time for it with school and everything else. To make a little money on the side, I baby-sit, and I have been a regular nanny for a few years. Even though I can get my license in a month, I'm not too concerned about getting a car right now because gas prices are so high."

The seemingly universal lack of money is conflicting with students' need to participate in social activities like eating out, shopping, going to a movie or going to an athletic event. This pressure to always have money handy is even causing underclassmen to find work. Mysti Eichenger (9) recently got a job at Studio Tan, but as seen in her ivory skin, her motives were not the employee discount.

"I got a job there because my sister works there and she could pull some strings to get me a job because they normally don't like to hire 15-year-olds," Eichenger said. "I can't work the computer, but I clean the tanning beds and fold towels. I got a job because I need money for a car and gas, and it'll be nice to have spending money. I know it's a while until I can drive, but I want to start saving now."

WAYS TO SAVE

-Carpool
-Check prices on-line
-Open a savings account
-Buy store brand items
-Shop at thrift stores like Plato's Closet
-Rent a movie instead of going out
-Don't use vending machines
-Go out to dinner with your family
-Sell old possession's on eBay
-Shop around
-Wait until items go on sale
-Buy in bulk
-Use coupons and rebates

SOURCE: PORTFOLIO.COM

Students interested in medical field spend day with nurses

BY DEREK LUTTRELL
COPY EDITOR

Ah, high school. The right of passage that every adolescent makes into new freedoms, experiences, memories and independence. However, these notorious four years are not all about who to ask to prom or what to wear to the football game. During high school, every student is forced to make future-dependent decisions that will have a decisive impact on the remainder of his or her life.

In order to make the ever-elusive process of choosing a career easier on high school students, Dupont Hospital now hosts an annual "A Day in the Life" outing that provides aspiring medical students with an upper hand on choosing a profession.

"[The program] started three years ago," Alisa, Registered Nurse at Dupont Hospital, said. "It was started by the Nursing Leadership Group in order to get more nurses in the field and to fill other medical positions."

The three hour Saturday morning event was set up in an open-house format, stationed in a room full of colorfully decorated posters and nearby department representatives. The group was made up of 80 high school students, consisting of 79 girls and one boy. The participants hailed from townships ranging from Dekalb to Huntington, and all were able to meander through the room and interview all personnel to gather information on his or her field of interest. With an open breakfast bar and a welcoming nursing staff, the apprehension of entering such an intimidating environment was quickly diminished.

"I really liked the open-house set up of the program," Joey Bender (12) said. "I liked being able to ask the nurses any questions I had about the different medical fields."

While taking a break from visiting all the nurses and experimenting with the stethoscopes, students were able to grab a snack and line up for a guided tour around the hospital.

"I enjoyed the tour, but I wish it could have been held on a weekday so we could experience the true life an active nurse, rather than touring through all of the areas that were closed for the weekend," Bender said.

The tours were constructed of groups of 10-12 and lasted from 20-30 minutes. During this time, students were able to take a behind-the-scenes look at nursing, and were even introduced to some of the newly developed technology of the rising generation of nursing.

According to startanursestaffingagency.com, the demand for employed registered nurses in the United States is expected to increase by 14 percent, to a total of 35 percent by the year 2010.

"Nursing is one of the few occupations that will always have an increasing demand," Alisa said. "It offers great job security, and medical positions all over the world can never have too much help. Everyone needs a nurse!"

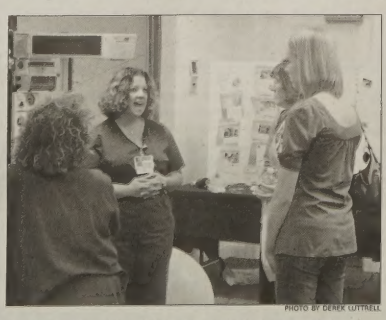


PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

Students who attended the "A Day in the Life" outing learned about nurses' schedules and what their job entails.

Marching to their own beat

Fall Festival of Bands showcases marching bands' talent without pressures of scoring

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Top left: Darlene Kim (11) at the Fall Festival of Bands on October 11. Top right: Dan Hoffman (11) plays the baritone at the annual invitational held two weeks ago. Above: Tyler Hanford (11) plays with fellow band members; the band's next performance at the semi-state competition tomorrow.

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Anticipation and impatience hang welcomingly in the heavy, humid air as the Spartan Alliance marching band awaits their turn to take the field, tightly wound with tension and eagerness. As the announcer's voice booms across the stadium, the members of the band take a deep breath before bursting onto the scene in a flurry of triumphant music and choreographed motion. Though this scene may seem to be a constant fixture at any band event, it was most recently enacted at Homestead's annual Fall Festival of Bands and will be re-enacted once more when the band performs at regionals.

Fall Festival was held at the Homestead stadium on Saturday Oct. 11. Though the Spartans took to the field at 5:09 p.m. as the last performance of the day, the hurried and arduous process of preparation and groundwork began at 4 p.m.

"Fall Festival is the annual invitational that Homestead hosts," Laura Kusisto (12), drum major, said. "Fall Festival is independently run by Homestead and is not affiliated with ISSMA. It is a competition for all the bands that travel to perform at Fall Festival- they are here to compete, not just to entertain the crowd."

Though Homestead performed at the Fall Festival of Bands invitational, it could be said that they weren't truly competing, seeing as the band was in exhibition. However, for those not involved with the proceedings of marching band, "exhibition" may be a foreign term.

"In exhibition means that a band is not competing at the contest," Kusisto said. "A band in exhibition is getting judged and will receive a score, but a band in exhibition is not in contention for awards, nor are they going to be placed. Any time a school hosts a competition, their band always performs in exhibition."

"The band in exhibition is always the band hosting the contest. It's proper etiquette," Steve Barber, band director, said.

Although band competitions and performances may seem like a business endeavor, they also function as a gateway to special opportunities and social networking with the band members of other schools.

"It's a lot of fun to perform in your home stadium in front of a huge fan base, and as a drum major, it is exciting to get to help present the awards to other bands that come to Fall Festival to compete," Kusisto said.

Providing a chance for the band to flaunt their talent in a relaxed environment, Fall Festival was a much needed break from the fierce competition the band has met during its busy schedule.

"The Fall Festival of Bands is a time that we can show all the other schools our show without them having to worry about our score," Allison Menze (12) said.

Although the Spartan band competes against numerous formidable rivals, students have come to a conclusion as to which schools are the most intimidating. One particular marching band seems to fall on the top of the list.

"Our fiercest competition is probably Avon High School near Indianapolis since they are the reigning state champions and have been for the last several years," Kusisto said.

Other students agree with Kusisto's evaluation that Avon is one of the toughest opponents in all of Indiana.

"Avon would be the biggest rival of Homestead due to their winning state the past five years. They have only lost one competition in the last five years, which causes them to be our biggest rival," Menze said. "Also, many bands that are from the southern area of the state are our rivals due to their past history and placement in state finals."

Now that Homestead has made its mark at regionals, the band will perform at semi-state on Saturday, Oct. 25 to fight for a position in the state competition and knock Avon out of the coveted championship spot.

IN TUNE WITH THE BAND

There are 231 members in the Spartan Alliance Marching Band.

The band has gone to the state finals every year since 1989.

This year's show is about 7 minutes and 45 seconds long.

The band has received first place at state finals four times.

The band competes in Class A in competitions.

Members of the band practiced for 11.77 hours this week alone.

Drama department prepares for play

Technical theater advances on props, set for fall production of 'You Can't Take it With You'

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

For many students, fall is welcomed by the cool weather and the happiness that accompanies such holidays as Halloween and Thanksgiving. For another group of students, fall is welcomed by afternoons spent in the auditorium where the air hums with the sound of hammers and saws.

Currently, the behind-the-scenes technical producers of the fall play, titled "You Can't Take It With You," begin to spend their afternoons at Homestead in preparation for the performances on Nov. 20, 21 and 22. This year, the drama program has experienced a number of changes, the largest being the new theater teacher, Victoria Malooley.

"The best part of Homestead is the combined support of parent, teacher and student," Malooley said.

Just as in past years, Malooley had to present two plays to the school board for approval. Malooley is not concerned about "pushing the envelope" with controversial content, but instead is concerned with changes in the drama department; mainly the addition of a drama club and a select theater class. For the moment, the main difference from past years is simply, "stricter rehearsal times," Malooley said.

The back stage technical producers of the fall play are currently working towards the goal of getting all the props and sets done two weeks before opening night.

"The hardest part of this goal is getting the lighting, sound and costumes done properly," Malooley said.

With this challenge, Malooley has been leaning on the lights, sounds and back stage managers for assistance.

Graham Bredemeyer (11) is in charge of lighting, with responsibilities consisting of the lighting cues and programming the lighting board and setting up all the lights, which, from a "physical end of things, is different but not necessarily harder than acting," Bredemeyer said.

The technical producers are not confined strictly to their areas of expertise, sometimes finding time to leave their assigned job and help with others, or, "to hang out with the actors," Bredemeyer said.

According to the technical producers, Malooley is a positive addition to the theater department.

"She is very organized, and she is also up on the technical ends of things in theater production," Bredemeyer said.

Students expect a certain level of production on both the actors and the technical producers' part.

"Good acting is more important than good technical production because if [actors] can't really act, the play is not going to be too enjoyable," Joanna Nguyen (10) said. "But the technical production appeals more to the eyes, which makes it more impressive than good acting."

All of the profits made from tickets will be recycled back into the theater department for drama expenses. While at first glance, the acting may be most prominent to the audience members, it is important to remember the long, hard hours put in by the people behind the stage.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Gabe Svetlovics (10) works on the set of the fall play after school. All sets are to be completed two weeks before the performances of the play set for November 20, 21 and 22.

SPORTS

soccer, cross country vie for semi-state at the plex tomorrow, 7a

page 6a
issue 4 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Boys XC: page 7a Girls XC: page 7a Boys Football: page 6a

Friday, October 24, 2008

One shot at a time

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Lady Spartans defeat No.4 ranked Bishop Dwenger in sudden death sectional game with overtime, penalty kicks

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

Last week, the girls' varsity soccer team played in the sectional tournament. With tough teams like Canterbury and Bishop Dwenger in their bracket, the Lady Spartans knew they would have to face at least one well-rounded team in order to win the coveted sectional crown.

In their first game of the tournament, the Lady Spartans took to the field against the Northside Redskins and won 14-0. A few days passed before the team played Elmhurst. Although the Trojans put up a fight, the Lady Spartans still prevailed in the end at 8-0. The win gave the team a spot in the sectional championship game, where they faced the third ranked Bishop Dwenger Saints.

Throughout the postseason, the girls knew that to win a sectional championship they would most likely have to go through Dwenger. With a few days of practice to get physically and mentally prepared, the girls felt they were ready to face the Lady Saints.

The score remained tied at 0-0 throughout regulation, despite plenty of shots on goal from both teams. A 14 minute overtime was also not enough to break the tie. Because of the tie score at the end of overtime, the game went into penalty kicks.

After the first five penalty kicks, both teams made 4 goals, resulting in the game going to sudden death. Goalkeeper Sam Scaringelli (11) stopped the first Dwenger attempt in sudden death, but Ann Eichman (11) could not capitalize on the blocked shot, as her shot hit the goal post. Both Dwenger and the Lady Spartans made their next goals. However, after another big stop by Scaringelli, Teresa Busse (10) won the game for the Lady Spartans with a dramatic goal to clinch the sectional title, advancing to regionals for the first time since 2005.

In the regional game against Carroll on Wednesday, Oct. 22, Abby Paul (12) scored the solitary point of the game off a free kick. The 1-0 win will send the Lady Spartans to semi-state at The Plex on Saturday, Oct. 25.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Above: The girls' soccer team celebrates after winning the penalty kick shootout. Below: Goalie Sam Scaringelli (11) reacts after blocking one of the Saints' penalty shots last Saturday.

RULES OF OVERTIME

Although in regular season tied games end in regulation, an overtime (O.T.) and penalty kick system is instituted in sectional tournaments to determine the winner.

1. Start with two, seven minute O.T.'s, with a two minute break, then switch sides after the half-time.

2. If still tied after O.T., send five players from each team to kick a penalty shot, alternating kicks between teams. The first team to kick is decided by coin-flip.

3. Repeat step two, but send out three new kickers from each team.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Football team claims conference title, starts postseason play tonight against Snider

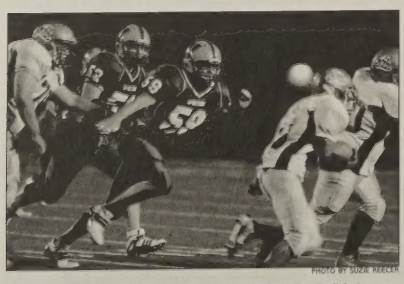


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Brian Strzelecki (12) goes for a tackle against the Bulldogs.

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

Throughout a tough regular season, the football team went through just a bit of everything, from an opening night win against Huntington North to a surprising loss to Warsaw the week after. The team had to play through injuries received by arguably the best two players on both sides of the ball. Through both the highs and lows of the season, the Spartans were in place to win conference on the last game of the regular season against New Haven.

For the second consecutive season, the Spartans claimed the Northeast Hoosier Conference title. An emotional senior night for the football players, the team came out firing on all cylinders and produced a 13 points in the first quarter which grew to a 23-7 lead at halftime.

With the regular season over, the team is switching gears to play the formidable Snider team. The Panthers come into the first round sectional game ranked sixth in the state. The Spartans knew from recent history that Snider would be somewhere in their sectional, it was just a question of where.

The last time the two teams faced off in 2006, the team won a dramatic game in the sectional championship when the Spartans stopped Snider inside the red zone as time expired. Last year, the Spartans saw their season end against Huntington North, while Snider won the sectional. This time around, Snider seeks revenge from the previous meeting while the Spartans are out to prove that last season's first round loss was a fluke.

Logan Laughlin (12), now a more experienced quarterback than he was a year ago, will be ready to lead the offense against a tough Panther defense that has recorded three shutouts this season. The Snider secondary will look to shut down Laughlin's primary targets, Colin Haruff (11) and Justin Hoffman (12). Snider's linebackers will have the task to shut down young running backs Cody Appenzeller (10) and Steven Espinonza (9).

"We have found some weaknesses in their defense that we like," Laughlin said. We want to exploit [Snider] on their weaknesses."

Perhaps the greatest challenge for the Spartans will be slowing down Snider's high-powered offense led by Mart Elliot (12) that is averaging just over 30 points a game.

"We want our main focus to stop their running game and force them to pass," Andy Baugher (12) said. "We feel like Elliot will make poor decisions if we put pressure on him."

With tragedy striking the local community last Friday night when Rodney Thompson (12) was killed in a car accident, some of the players will be honoring him during the game.

"Our coaches told us at practice that it is going to be okay," Hoffman said. "All of us are definitely going to play with Rodney in the back of our minds."

With the challenges set ahead for them tonight, the team is very confident they will come out with a second straight win over the Panthers. Snider will, without a doubt, be the toughest opponent for the team thus far, but a win would not only be an emotional for the Spartans after an emotional week, but will put them as favorites to win the sectional.

SNIDER SHOWDOWN

Who: Homestead Spartans vs. Snider Panthers
What: Sectional title game between two rivals
When: Tonight at 7 p.m.
Where: Spuller Stadium at Northrop High School

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

With a goal scored by Sean Dulworth (11), shown above celebrating with Chris Warren (12), the boys' soccer team pulls out a win against Canterbury for the regional championship Saturday.

TWICE THE TRIUMPH

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

For the boys' varsity soccer team, winning the Money Game against Canterbury once in a season is usually good enough. Behind the goals of Wyatt Sorg (12) and Tom Gallmeyer (12), the Spartans beat the Cavaliers 2-1 on Sept. 27.

After wrapping up the NHC title, the team, led by Grant Welter (12), Kegan Harkenrider (11) and goalkeeper Justin Hanford (11), stormed their way into postseason play. In the first round of sectionals, the team eliminated the Wayne Generals by a score of 13-0. In the sectional championship game, the Spartans gave the Columbia City Eagles the same treatment Wayne was given. Winning by a score of 5-0, the boys went into regionals with momentum on their side.

In the first round of regionals, the Spartans faced off against the Northrop Bruins. Knowing a win would match them up with Canterbury once again, the varsity team defeated the Bruins to reach the regional finals against the Cavaliers, setting up a sequel to the Money Game for 2008.

Ranked second in state, the undefeated Spartans fought hard throughout the game against Northrop. With about 20 minutes left, Sean Dulworth (12) scored the lone goal of the game to give the Spartans a 1-0 win.

With their tickets now punched for semi-state, the team is getting ready for the game against Westview High School, which will be played tomorrow at 10 a.m. at The Plex. The Spartans need three more wins to reach the state finals and one additional win to bring the state championship trophy home.

BOYS SOCCER SEMI-STATE: ROUND ONE
AGAINST WESTVIEW TOMORROW 10 A.M. AT THE PLEX

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Offense threat Grant Welter (12) pumps up the crowd during the second half of the game. Although it was held at neutral site Carroll, the overwhelming number of Homestead and Canterbury fans created a tense atmosphere.

Cross country aims to advance past semistate

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

Success seems to be the theme of the boys' and girls' cross country teams as they head into the semi-state rounds of the cross country postseason. Both teams were successful at their sectionals and regionals.

Kodi Mullins (10) and Evan Hanley (12) finished first and second, respectively, for the boys' cross country team at sectionals, as the team finished second overall. The team then traveled to Marion for regionals, where they achieved a third place finish, advancing to semi-state.

"Hard work and determination along with good coaching and teammates contributed to my first place finish at sectionals," Mullins said.

The girls' team won their sectional for the second year in a row. Meghan Terrell (12) led the way with a second place finish individually. There were several other contributors, as Haley Havert (9), Lauren Purlee (9), Kayla Lubkert (9) and Sara Hoppe (11) and all finished in the top ten. The team then finished second at the Marion Regional.

"I think we can make it to state this year because we work as a pack throughout the race," Lubkert said.

The boys' team will look to finish the postseason strong with Hanley and Mullins leading the way, while the girls' team will rely heavily on its three talented freshmen. Either way, both teams attempt to continue their successful run at state at New Haven this Saturday.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Eric Miller (11), Christian Clark (10), Andrew McLain (11) and Brandon Soat (9) work as a pack to finish the 5 kilometer course at the Bellmont sectional.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Meghan Terrell (12) and Lauren Purlee (9) push for a lead over competitors at the sectional meet.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Ali Kattman (12) trails Kathryn Graham (11) coming out of a turn.

BOYS' TENNIS RECAP

BY ANDREW WEISS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The boys' tennis team was beaten in semi-state, ending their quest for a state title. Zionsville, the fifth ranked team in the state, defeated the Spartans, ranked 11th with a 5-0 record, in the championship of the Homestead semi-state. Connor Andrews (10), the team's number one singles player, was defeated by a former Homestead player Andrew Kahn (12) in two games. Homestead got to the semistate championship by sweeping Delta 5-0 in the semi-state semifinals.

While there is no semi-state championship this season, members of the boys' team were given recognition for their performance throughout the fall. Andrews was named to the All-District team. Along with Andrews, doubles team Jordan Mauk (10) and Brad White (11) were also named All-District Tennis players.

The team did have a successful season, going 17-5 and winning Homestead's 27th regional title and the 31st sectional title in boys' tennis. The team should be able to build on their success next season because none of the varsity players are graduating. Singles players Andrews, Michael Zurcher (11) and Austin Overlander (10) all plan to return. Complementing the singles players will be the doubles teams of Mauk and White along with Scott Rumancik (10) and Steve Anderson (11).

FROM THE BOOTH

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

As we close in on Friday night, we see the student body get more and more excited for what will ensue. Homestead versus Snider. From the fan standpoint it's a night of yelling and cheering for the Spartans, but not for Andrew Sims (12) and me. We will be spending the chilly night in the broadcasters booth. Being the two broadcasters for The Point 91.1, Homestead's radio station, we notice everything good and bad about the Spartan football team. One thing that we have noticed is the lack of the student body the last two weeks. Of course we were playing cream puffs but still where is the support for the 8-1, NHC champion Spartans? Yes, the painters were there yelling and doing an insane number of push ups but if you looked behind them, there were maybe four or five rows of fans. Are you serious? We are one of the best football teams in the city, and we can't muster up 60 kids to cheer us on in a school of 2,200. I hope this Friday we can do a little better. We are playing our arch rivals in the playoffs. What will it be this time guys?

PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

THREE RIVERS SHIVERS

Journalists submerge themselves in underbelly of local ghost hunting scene

People will believe in anything - and that statement doesn't require an end modifier of "nowadays."

It took me one full week in October to reach that conclusion. Preceding my epiphany, I found myself frequently surrounded by the same elements: the persistent soundtrack of gravel roads under my tires, the mindless repetition of fables that begin with "many years ago" and the wishful yearning that maybe, just maybe that shadow was more than a shadow. Yes, for seven days of the year, I considered myself an amateur ghost hunter.

By the end of the week, my experiences were blurred together into one cohesive recollection. I quickly detached myself from the situation and realized that my method was pitiful; all I was really doing was following stories. In order to make sense of my plight, I employed the mental help of lifelong folklorist and 43-year Indiana University professor of folklore Linda Degh.

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOC. EDITOR

"People have fears, they are not happy," Degh said. "Right now, the world is not that wonderful. Folklore is telling what people are afraid of."

Nowadays, I guess there are quite a few things worth fearing, but I never was genuinely terrified on any ghost hunt. Such a rationale, explains Indiana Ghost Trackers state secretary Jennifer Zamaites, is commonplace in the world of organized apparition search.

"We have disciplined ourselves to not react in fear on investigations," Zamaites said. "What we really hope to experience are things we can't logically explain."

You may think the Indiana Ghost Trackers are a dismal band of thirty-somethings based in a Terre Haute strip mall. Think again; these enthusiasts are scattered about the state, occupying 18 Hoosier chapters. At the Fort Wayne chapter, members head out on the last Saturday of every month to a designated location. Their findings, as detailed by co-director Tamy Smith, are not always conclusive.

"In my short time with the group, I haven't had any terrifying experiences," Smith said, "but [I have had] some truly interesting experiences leaving me wanting more of them as well as to learn more about the paranormal."

Why do we believe in ghost stories? After hearing Smith's testimony, the question became even more prominent in my mind. I aimed the question at Degh repeatedly, but it yielded no direct answer. Zamaites even assured me that "more often than not" the ghost trackers are able to "disprove the haunting."

Was I losing my mind? I was trekking through private residences and cruising county roads in search of...what? Something that even the experts are discrediting?

"I don't think there is an increase in ghostly experiences, just more acceptance of the unknown," Zamaites said.

Zamaites' statement did not aid my cause, but then Degh puzzled me with an abrupt injection of wisdom.

"This life that we are living," she asserted, "is the ghost story."

At first, I exercised typical cynicism. This was, after all, the same woman who told me the Irish were wholly to blame for all of the brouhaha. I could not wrap my mind around her attitude, but, as I stood with two feet submerged in a creek that was supposed to lead to a haunted graveyard – the brownish slush seeping through every orifice of my footwear – I found the answer to my question.

So why do we believe in ghost stories? The answer is quite simple: why not?

DEVIL'S HOLLOW CEMETERY

THE LEGEND: The story behind the eeriness of the subdivision has several different variants. One of the more vague myths is that anyone who stands still too long in the cemetery hidden in the woods behind the subdivision will drop dead. The other myth involves an escaped convict with a hook for a hand. The story involving the ex-con was much more prominent when Devil's Hollow was a Lovers' Lane-esque hangout for Fort Wayne youth.

THE REPORT: A creek does exist and is even recognized on regional maps as the Aboite Creek. The creeks extends southwest through front lawns of private residences and does not end until it reaches the Whitley-Allen county line beyond U.S. Route 24. The supposed cemetery was not located, but a cemetery is present on nearby County Line Road which, according to student accounts, is named Kelsey Cemetery.

POOK ROAD RAILROAD TRACKS

THE LEGEND: A railroad worker tripped and was decapitated after his train began moving. The ghost of the railroad workers haunts the tracks by searching for his head, which supposedly rolled into the nearby swamp. People who park next to the railroad have reported seeing a lantern floating above the tracks.

THE REPORT: Although no floating lantern was spotted over the course of a 15-minute search, a universal haunted railroad test was passed. After waiting about three or four minutes with the wheels of a car rested in the ridges of the track, a force pushed the car forward over the ridges and down the slight slope.

VANDOLAH NATURE PRESERVE

THE LEGEND: Many years ago, a collection of unidentifiable bodies were found at the now-nature preserve. As with the mythical Devil's Hollow cemetery, standing still for too long will result in visitors' inevitable death.

THE REPORT: The nature preserve's entrance is marked by a residence. A dog was found on the perimeter of the residence, but did not mark or make any gesture to give away any potential ghost hunter's location. There is a building at the trailhead that is rather unkempt and ominous in the darkness of the night, but the preserve as a whole produced nothing remotely terrifying.

Headed west down Indiana State 14 with a fellow journalist and Joe Wolter, ninth grade English teacher and noted ghost hunter, we make our way deep down Pook Road on a late October night.

The isolated gravel path in South Whitley leads to the Norfolk Southern Railway, notorious for its history of unexplainable eradication of unsuspecting strangers. The railway crossing greets visitors with an aged cross, lined with indistinguishable markings and scattered gifts for the deceased. Following the tale, Wolter, another comrade and I, armed only with flashlights and digital cameras, are determined to witness at firsthand the presence of the spirit of a 1950s railroad worker that was decapitated by a passing train, carrying a lantern with him that, allegedly, shines a lone, wavering light across the railroad. Wolter captures a previously unnoticed light in a picture he takes down the railway. In the picture, a spec of light appears off in the distance. Some may argue that the light simply marks the end of the railway; however, after studying the photo and the true path of the railway, a skeptic can see that this light indeed does not naturally follow the railroad.

BY DEREK LUTTRELL
COPY EDITOR

While the hunt is just starting to heat up, an adolescent local becomes intrigued by the abnormal presence of our flashlights, awkwardly shining a half-mile down the railway. The young lady decides to yell, "Mommy, mommy! Some weird people are on the tracks!" Concerned that the hunt will come to an unappreciated end, I turn off my flashlight and stay still, hoping this would make me disappear and cause the awakened neighbors to forget we were ever there. However, we were soon flashed by the unforgiving headlights of Chevy 4x4, which I took as a skunk lifting his tail, telling us to get off the tracks. Judging by the cornucopia of surrounding trailer homes that appeared to be vacant, I did not want to cause any trouble; I've seen too many movies in my life that too closely mirrored this exact environment. After a few minutes of walking down the railroad with mixed feelings of minor paranoia and the essence of creating a *Stand by Me* reenactment, the three of us head back into the darkness, relying only on the moon and pocket-sized flashlights to direct the way back to our cars.

In the wake of the disruption, Wolter and his novice ghost-hunting acquaintances continue on. About to return to our cars and head back to civilization, Wolter recounts the tale of a protective "force" that is known to push troubled vehicles off of the train tracks. So, in honor of the night, and in complete dishonor of section three of Drivers' Education: A Guide to Safe and Easy Driving, Wolter rests his car in the middle if the railroad crossing. After 30 disbelieving seconds, his car slowly begins to roll off of the tracks. In complete dismay and disbelief in Wolter's honesty, I decide to test the tracks myself; this time, in order to make sure an incline is not in my favor, I set the wheels of my vehicle securely in the groove of the tracks. Surprisingly, my car actually begins to roll off of the railroad tracks, before nearly rolling into the algae-infested creek that runs parallel to the tracks.

This night led to several more evenings of looking for spooks in our so-called haunted town of Fort Wayne. While some locations were strikingly organized and well-researched, others merely led to an empty gas tank in the middle of US-30 and a late-night craving for a chicken quesadilla. Regardless, my newly appreciated Halloween activity packed the same scare-factor punch as the overrated, over-commercialized haunted houses of the area that I once knew and loved.

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 5 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Monday, November 10, 2008

Rhoades to leave school for Parkview job

Dean of students accepts offer from hospital, plans to use acquired skills in a 'new way'

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Change is inevitable. With every year, the Spartans have been subject to a wide spectrum of changes ranging from controversial alterations of school policy to trivial adjustments in the lunch menu. As in every other aspect of our evolving school, change in faculty members is inescapable. The next alteration in staff will be the departure of Tom Rhoades, one of two deans of students.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

"I'm leaving to accept another offer with Parkview Hospital," Rhoades said. "It's an opportunity that allows me to use the skills I've acquired in my career over the past eighteen years in a new way."

Planning to leave in the middle of November, Rhoades has been questioned about the reason for his abrupt departure.

"The position at Parkview came open in September, and I was offered the job on Oct. 17," Rhoades said. "I'm leaving so abruptly because Parkview is interested in starting as quickly as possible."

Because there are two deans, the other being Jeff Kintz, the process of giving the duties of both deans to Kintz would be a rather simple solution. While this may seem to be the most logical course of action, there are conflicting opinions concerning its efficiency.

"When Mr. Smith proposed having two deans, it was a new concept to SACS," Rhoades said. "Other districts [namely Huntington North] have studied our system and thought it was better, so they replicated it. Even if we had one dean, the things we've done as two will continue to

Rhoades, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Officers take action over security scares

Students praise administration's handling of morning bomb threats

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

As students came pouring into school on Tuesday, Oct. 28, half asleep and chilled by the cold morning air, an alarming announcement came over the intercom: "Students, we now ask you to move to your first period class as soon as possible." This was followed by various administrators and teachers herding the sea of students along into their first period classes.

Lackadaisically moving towards their classes, students did not understand the potential danger at hand. They eventually made it to class, and as they sat in their desks, teachers were told to check their e-mail over the intercom for more information on the situation. Although nervous conversations echoed concerns about the sketchy situation, class continued as normal. Nevertheless, there was a bomb threat at Homestead that Tuesday morning, and although it was a false alarm, the administration had to follow procedures on searching the school.

> "I think the way we handled it was spectacular."
> **JEREMY TINKEL**
> Resource Officer

Early in the morning, 911 received notice of the bomb threat, and at the school Sheriff Jeremy Tinkel undertook the responsibility of informing the administration of the

Security, continued on 2a

22 Years of State Tradition

"WHAT A GREAT DAY"

BRAD WADKINS
Band Director

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

Last Saturday night the Lucas Oil Stadium hosted the ISSMA State Marching Band Finals. An estimated 30,000 people in the crowd cheered as each of the 10 Class A bands preformed, hoping to impress the judges. With a wave of blue supporters in the stands, the Spartan Alliance Band took the field as the last band to perform, presenting their show entitled "Magnetism." Hoping to place well, the band anxiously awaited the awards ceremony which took place immediately following their show. In the end, Homestead was proud to take home the fourth place trophy.

Band, continued on 2a

CLASS A RESULTS

1	2	3	4	5
Lawrence Central Indianapolis, Ind.	Avon Avon, Ind.	Carmel Carmel, Ind.	Homestead Ft. Wayne, Ind.	Lake Central St. John, Ind.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER AND REGAN FERRELL

BRIEFS

NHS INDUCTION
The National Honors Society's Induction and Recognition Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Following the ceremony, the Parent Club will be hosting dessert bar in the cafeteria. Those eligible to attend include juniors and seniors who have achieved a GPA average of 10.0 or above on a 12 point scale. Because community service is also a crucial part of NHS membership, students are required to complete five hours of service by the end of the year in addition to maintaining the minimum required GPA.

FALL PLAY SCHEDULE
The fall play, "You Can't Take it With You," was originally scheduled to open Nov. 13 with additional performances on Nov. 14 and 15; however, there has been a change in schedule. For those planning to attend, opening weekend has been postponed to Nov. 20, 21 and 22.

FINANCIAL AID MEETING
There will be a financial aid meeting on Nov. 20, 2008, from 6:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The intentions of the meeting will be to help students create and find a financial plan for college. The most current and updated information for students will is available in Student Services. Parents and students are encouraged to come and learn about financial aid, and how to apply for consideration.

COLLEGE COUNTDOWN
SAT: Dec. 6, 2008 (Register by Nov. 18, 2008; late fee applies)
ACT: Dec. 13, 2008 (Register by Nov. 20, 2008; late fee applies)
SAT Subject Tests: Dec. 6, 2008 (Register by Nov. 18, 2008)

CORRECTION
In Issue Four, The Spartana misprinted Rodney Thompson's year of birth. Thompson was born in 1990. The staff regrets this error.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Athletic Department's Fall Season Fundraising
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Socialist Studies, Ed Board, Q&A
PAGE 4A, Opinion: Left and Write, Media Report Card, History of Taxes
PAGE 5A, Life: Student Rotarians, Early Admissions, Church Goes Green
PAGE 6A, Life: Oh, The Places You'll Go
PAGE 7A, Sports: Full Court Press, From the Booth, Path to the Blue and Gold
PAGE 8A, Sports: Boys' Soccer State Competition

Spanish teachers finalize Costa Rica trip

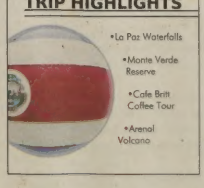
Informational meetings begin in preparation for $2,000 expedition of South American culture, language

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Embarking upon a trip of academic and cultural importance, Spanish teachers Señoras Aries, Spidel and Huhn, along with Señor Peeper are taking 32 students to Costa Rica. Those eligible for the trip have completed their second year of Spanish and are members of the Spanish club. Putting their foreign language skills to the ultimate test, these special students will stay in Costa Rica for nine days, visiting many of the tourist attractions that the country has to offer.

In preparation for the trip, Spanish teachers will begin holding meetings with students once a month in the beginning of February or March, at which time they will discuss Costa Rican food and culture, what students should pack and other important information necessary before leaving the country. Eagerly waiting for the trip to begin, many of the Spanish students are excited to visit a foreign country and learn about the culture.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



"Not every high school student can say that they went to Costa Rica and hiked through some rain forests and visited a volcano," Meghan O'Connor (12), Spanish club president, said. "When we finish out trip we will be able to say that. I also think that the students will have a better understanding of the Hispanic culture that not many people know about, and I think that they will appreciate the time that they will spend there. I know I will."

Although the trip will be enjoyable, it is very costly. Overall, the expense amounts to about $2,000. Luckily for the students, fund-raising activities have helped cut down

Trip, continued on 2a

BOYS' SOCCER

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

TAKES THIRD AT STATE

See story on 8a

BAND
CONTINUED FROM 1A

For the Spartan Alliance Band, going to state is a tradition they have fought to uphold for 22 years. After all this time, one might think the novelty of going to state would lose its appeal; however, this could not be further from the truth.

Each year, the tradition is continued through a revival of hard work, anticipation and upbeat spirit that makes going to state an experience each band member will never forget. Looking into the eyes of the band members, anyone can easily detect that each ritual of state preparation conveys powerful emotions. Although the group is rather spirited throughout the season, it is at state where the most anticipation and excitement can be witnessed.

"I was excited to play in front of such a big crowd," Corey Dixon (9), pit percussionist, said. "This is what we'd all worked for. I was nervous that the crowd and the stadium would distract me, but it didn't.... It was definitely my best performance ever."

Although the band performed one of their best shows of the season, the final verdict rested in the hands of the judges. After a disappointing fifth place at semi-state the week before, band members were hoping to improve their standing at state or even claim the state title. Nevertheless, most members agreed that even though they did not win first place, the feeling of being at state and playing a memorable show outweighed the score sheets.

"Bringing home a championship would have been nice, but this year I finally realized that the numbers the judges put on a page don't matter," Andy Mockler (12), snare drum player, said. "You just have to carry the feeling of the show with you. It was an amazing season no matter what the score."

> "...I finally realized that the numbers the judges put on a page don't matter. You just have to carry the feeling of the show with you. It was an amazing season no matter what the score."
>
> **ANDY MOCKLER (12)**
> Snare Drum Player

Even without the first place title, those involved deemed state a memorable experience.

"My favorite part of the whole day was the last note we played and Evan Snyder (12) had the biggest smile I've ever seen," Dixon said.

Along with the tradition of simply going to state, the 231 members of this year's band participated in other longstanding traditions associated with the competition. The poster and cider night, which is usually held on the Thursday night before state, was held Tuesday night due to parent teacher conferences.

After a special meeting on the field with the directors, students made their way to the cafeteria via the band hallway lined with posters made by parents. Followed by the beats of the drum line, band members and their families gathered in the cafeteria for apple cider, doughnuts and the performance of the drum line's traditional "Wilson" cadence.

Other traditions included the state send off and welcoming home of the buses. Family and friends of the band members gathered in the senior lot to cheer as the buses circled the lot before heading down to Indy. Fog horns, silly string and even fireworks were among the many ways the band members and their families showed their spirit.

Held the day after state, the potluck lunch was the final band tradition of the year. With the cafeteria packed and enough food for everyone, it recognized the dedication that each member put into making the season possible.

Brad Wadkins, one of the band directors, spoke at this year's potluck.

"It's been just an awesome experience for everyone involved," Wadkins said. "What a great day state was."

NEW VENUE
same tradition

Above: Guard members Collette Spears (12), Emily Sterneman (10), Sara Nettleton (12), Kelly Stace (11) and Karen Rhodenbeck (12) perform during the state competition on Nov. 1. Left: A trombone player hits a note during state at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Homestead Spartan Alliance Marching Band performed their show called "Magnetism" at 9:37 p.m. in Class A.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET BISTLEN

Right: Brass instructor Mike Matter tunes a trumpet player's instrument during the warm-up. Each instrument section stands in a circle and completed their warm-up exercises before the competition.

RHOADES
CONTINUED FROM 1A

grow and improve. I don't know who will take my place, though, if anyone."

Before becoming a dean of students, Rhoades worked as a police officer, learning the fundamentals of security and appropriate discipline.

"[Working as a police officer] helped me gain experiences and knowledge — street smarts," Rhoades said. "I realize the importance of discipline and rules, and it helped me become able to weigh serious issues versus trivial ones."

Recognizing the value of his soon to be former position, Rhoades recollects the importance of competent faculty members.

"I was and wasn't surprised when I came to Homestead," Rhoades said. "I was surprised in how much it takes to run a school of this size, though. A great deal of activity is required for the school to function. There are a lot of people behind the scenes making the building look brand new and spotless every day when you come in. We have great support from parents and great students."

Though he only spent a short time as a dean, Rhoades has witnessed and assisted many changes during his employment. Although they were not solely planned by the administration, closed lunch policies and numbered parking spaces in the senior lot are only a few of the many adjustments. Despite all of the tangible and recognizable contributions he has made, Rhoades deems his relationships with members of the faculty and the student body his most valuable achievement.

"What I feel are my greatest accomplishments at Homestead are the individual relationships I've built," Rhoades said. "Obviously discipline isn't the most popular position, but we've built strong relationships and I think that's important."

Although his achievements have been considered paramount, Rhoades recognizes that there is always room for alterations.

"Part of my responsibility has been in safety," Rhoades said. "There are always improvements to make and always more to be done. I wanted to do more, but there will be continuous evolvement even when I'm not here."

Preparing to make the dramatic change from a high school environment to a hospital setting, Rhoades understands that although both have their positions respective charms, there are certain aspects of working at the school that he will dearly miss.

"I'll definitely miss the students, the staff, and the administrators," Rhoades said. "I've made such good relationships here that the most difficult of deciding to leave has been the students.

COST
CONTINUED FROM 1A

the cost of the excursion. One of these activities involved collecting aluminum cans to recycle, crush and redeem for a profit. Students also got a 40% commission for selling Avon make-up products. Some students are even applying for scholarships from Alpha, Dave Hefner or ISE to help pay for the trip. Even though these funds have helped lower the cost so far, there is much work left to be done in two remaining fundraisers.

Once all funds have been earned and preparations completed, the trip will finally take place. In Costa Rica, students will be lead by a naturalist guide to visit a handful of the many exquisite sites, including volcanoes, waterfalls, caves, beaches and thermal springs.

"I'm probably most excited about visiting the rainforests, volcanoes and other possible activities in Costa Rica," Emily Potts (11) said. "We're going to a different park or rainforest almost everyday ... we're seeing as much as we can while we're there. But, we also will have a lot of down time for things we want to do, like possible white water rafting or zip-lining. I'm totally into adventure things, and it's twice as fun to do this stuff on vacation."

Not only will the trip provide students with an opportunity to learn about a foreign culture, but also it will give them a chance to practice their Spanish-speaking skills, using their classroom knowledge and applying it in real life. Peeper hopes that students will enhance their developing language skills and appreciate the Hispanic culture.

"My goals are that the students enhance their Spanish communication skills, experience the Costa Rican culture and take risks with their language skills while we are abroad," Peeper said. "The students have worked very hard in their language classes, and this summer they will all have a chance to truly apply everything they have learned in an authentic Spanish-speaking environment. I also hope the students gain a deeper understanding of the Hispanic culture and learn that it is no better and no worse than any other culture ... just different, unique."

YES
WE
CAN
(provide you advertisements)
for ad inquiries, drop us a line at thespartana@gmail.com or (260)431-2261

SECURITY
CONTINUED FROM 1A

potential threat.

"When we get a call from dispatch, it's my job as a police officer to notify the administration," Tinkel said. "It's my responsibility to keep my department advised ... and I'll also assist in the search of the school if need be. Basically, I coordinate the law enforcement aspect."

After the administration was informed of the situation, the Southwest Allen County School's bomb threat procedures were followed. Each administrator was assigned a section of the school to check and secure.

"It's basically the school administrators' duty to secure the school," Tinkel said. "You get everyone into classrooms, out of the bathrooms and out of large areas. Then you have the students remain in the classrooms. Then each administrator is assigned a specific area of the school to search."

Even though the threat proved to be a false alarm, security at Homestead faced a test with this rare occurrence. According to Tinkel, the Homestead administration handled the situation flawlessly.

"I think the way we handled it was spectacular," Tinkel said. "When we got the bomb threat, we got all of the administrators together, and I think we had everyone in their classrooms in 10 minutes. The communication was great – not only the communication among administrators, but also the communication between law enforcement and the administration."

Tinkel is not the only one who believed that the treat was handled well. Many students also felt that the procedures went smoothly.

> "I think that the security measures are really good. There are security cameras everywhere, and when they heard about the bomb threat, they searched the school thoroughly."
>
> **PRIYA PARIKH (9)**
> Student

"I thought that [the administration] handled it well," Nicole Ivanovic (10) said. "They said they followed all of the procedures and had us all in our classes so we were all safe. The administrators also let the teachers know what was going on, so I thought that was good."

Despite positive attitudes towards the administration's execution, the threats evoked varying emotions from students. Some were scared, whereas others immediately assumed the threat was a false alarm.

"On the day of the bomb threat, I was horrified and scared for my life," Ty Sheets (10) said.

It is times like the recent bomb threat in which tight security systems are a necessity. Luckily, the security systems at Homestead range the spectrum from multiple security cameras installed throughout the building to personal police officers, like Tinkel, who patrol the lunchroom. While some students may view such security measures as extreme, they are essential to ensure a safe learning environment.

"I think that the security measures are really good," Priya Parikh (9) said. "There are security cameras everywhere, and when they heard about the bomb threat, they searched the school thoroughly."

Well-trained in sessions about the necessities to keep schools safe, Tinkel attended a school resource officer conference earlier this summer. At this conference, he gained confidence in our security systems.

"To be quite honest, Homestead goes to great lengths to keep everyone here secure," Tinkel said. "I think that [our security] is [better] than most schools."

Athletic department continues to climb

Fall fundraisers help department bounce back after 'savings year'

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

One of the main drawbacks of athletics is that they require money, and lots of it. Paying for equipment maintenance, transportation, coaching and countless other necessities, the athletic department's already tight budget has prompted the need for fundraising. In fact, athletes who participated in fall sports this year were strongly encouraged to help the cause by selling discount cards for local businesses. Overall, these efforts have helped fall sports with their wide variety of expenses.

Athletic director Joe Updegrove plays a critical role in the organization and execution of fundraising efforts, and he claims that additional funds are necessary because more money is required to pay for transportation to get athletes to their events.

"[All the fundraisers] have been very successful," Updegrove said. "Additional funds were needed to cover transportation costs, which are not part of the Athletics Department."

Although various forms of fundraising were used to supply each respective team with more money, the most prominent method was the sale of cards entitling buyers to discounts at several local businesses.

"I sold the discount cards to family members and houses in and around my neighborhood," Steve Lowden (11), football player, said. "It was really the only fundraising I did. The cards were around $20, which is kind of a lot. I guess it's worth it to some people, but it was hard to sell to strangers."

While students faced the challenge of selling the discount cards, school officials faced the challenge of enlisting businesses as willing supporters to give discounts. However, because the creation of the cards and their distribution were both vital parts of the fundraiser, the efforts of students and faculty alike did not go unappreciated.

"Varsity Gold worked with the booster club to obtain the discounts," Updegrove said.

However, the sale of discount cards was not the only method of raising money.

"[Other forms of fundraising included] the Outback meal, Dance Marathon, spirit wear, Booster Membership and the seasonal program," Updegrove said. "They have all been very successful."

While much of the fundraising was to help out teams in general, some was used to offset individual athletic costs.

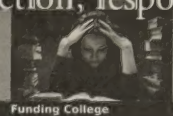
"[Our fundraising] was voluntary, and whatever you sell is taken out of the cost for playing," Kevin Kelley (11), lacrosse player, said. "There are different bills and fees to play. Whatever you make goes into that. If you don't get your costs covered, you have to pay out of pocket or go and get advertisements for program. We sold wreathes to be given as gifts, and part of that money was given to the team. We mostly sold them to friends and family."

Although it would be nice if the athletic costs would take care of themselves, that is, unfortunately, not the case. Supplementing the school's funds, athletes have accepted the task of filling the gap between that which our program has and that which it needs.

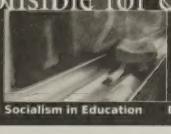
OPINION

media fails to cover election, responsible for catastrophic results, 4a

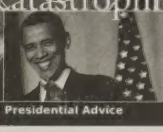
page 3a
issue 5 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814



Funding College



Socialism in Education



Presidential Advice

Monday, November 10, 2008

SOCIAList STUDIES

Leftist teachers, socialist lessons infect school system, brainwash students

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

Liberalism has become socialism, whether liberals are conscious of this or not. Allow Norman Thomas, socialist and member of the American Civil Liberties Union to explain it: "The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism, but under the name of liberalism, they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program until one day America will be a socialist nation without ever knowing how it happened." That day has come. A socialist now sits in the White House. Thanks to the leftist cadre of teachers and professors infesting our educational system, from the unimpeachable throne of a lecture podium, liberals have turned the public education system into a factory for turning out socialists, starting young and never yielding.

Kindergarten. You learn to write your name, push in your chair, maybe even read. But the most important lesson you take from this charming introduction to education is to share. You share your markers, your scissors, you may even have to part with some of your snack. Now sure, crayons and goldfish seem like friendly exchanges, but this mandated charity is the foundation of socialism: in essence, what's mine is yours.

Elementary School. With political correctness now defining curriculum and codes of behavior, building self-esteem is on the top of every teacher's agenda. It is the formative years of elementary school that we discover everyone is a winner. You might be slower, dumber, or flat out wrong, but you are still a winner. Extracurricular activities echo this sentiment. In sports, trophies are no longer coveted by all and won by few; each athlete is entitled to one, even if that means coaches must create absurd reasons to commend them. Here begins the lie: everyone is equal. Not in the sense of equal protection under the law. No, it is much less noble. It is that despite ability or effort, unequal performance merits equal praise.

Middle School. Teachers now enforce another precious lesson: learning to work with others. A cause for frustration and an invitation for conflict, group projects are now added to the mix. Students work at the mercy of others as two possible outcomes emerge: either the lethargic reap the rewards earned by the diligent or the potential of the capable is inhibited by the will of the impotent.

High School. Finally, students have an opportunity to actualize their potential in Honors and Advanced Placement classes. But more relentless than ever, socialists have fought weighted grades, a system that would incentivize those capable of taking harder classes and reward intelligent, hard-working students. But instead, because we now have to make sure that the students that are dumb or lazy (or both) are given equal praise, sloth ends up getting you a higher GPA and a better class rank.

And here, our Petri dish could not display a better extrapolation. Just as many students lose the incentive to challenge themselves because their exhausting ambition will be met only with a societal endorsement of complacency, the same brilliant and capable minds will lose the incentive to invent, to take risks and to compete in the marketplace because the fruits of their labor will be confiscated anyway and redistributed after being filtered through government bureaucracy.

These seemingly harmless lessons are not just about sharing and caring. As they learn of the brilliant heroism of FDR and the despicable wealth of history's entrepreneurs, students are being taught the 'evils of capitalism.' Classroom rules become uncannily similar to the most basic principles of collectivism. And as our society becomes less and less merit-based, we drift further and further away from what our nation was intended to be.

SOCIALISM *Synonyms*

Socialism is the redistribution of wealth and power equally among all people. It puts the economy under government control, restricting both the production and the distribution of goods and interfering with business. Socialism has failed in the past, most notoriously in the USSR, and today's socialist countries are enduring the same dying economies.

"Here begins the lie: everyone is equal. Not in the sense of equal protection under the law. No, it is much less noble. It is that despite ability or effort, unequal performance merits equal praise."

ASHLEY HEATH
Opinion Editor

Q&A

Dear Mr. President

Q: If you could write to the president-elect, Barack Obama, what would you say to him?

A: I think your economic policies are fairly unreasonable, especially in your ideas about tax cuts. I wonder, will you put your words into actions?
-A Doubtful Student

I'm glad you have inspired hope and unity in our nation. Your election has brought along patriotism in this time of economic turmoil. Congratulations and good luck!
-Dan Godfrey (12)

You have your dream job and dream Congress - congrats. I'd like to remind you to go easy on pushing the homosexual agenda and abortion rights, not everyone agrees with you. I can't say I think killing a born child after they aren't successfully aborted is kosher. But, as a whole, I support your stance on the war so do what you promised.
-Regan Ferrell (12)

I am very glad that you are our new president. For the benefit of our government and safety, I would be glad to see the soldiers retire from Iraq. Thank you very much for your time.
-A Thankful Student

I didn't particularly support your candidacy and I am, however, sincerely concerned with the well being of our nation. I recognize that this is a commonality which we share and I am only able to hope and pray that you may protect the values and well being of my family.
-Anderson Whipp (12)

Congratulations on winning the 2008 election! I hate to break it to you, but the easy part of all this is over. Now that you have actually won, you are going to need to prove to the many Americans, including myself, that you are indeed the right person for this position. I hope that you will make wise decisions, because every choice you make will effect every single person in the United States. If you fail, the whole country is going to come falling right behind you.
-A Scared Student

Even though you have a democratic majority both in the House and in the Senate, I hope you do not push your agenda too far to the left. A little less than half the country would appreciate that much from you. Everything is better in moderation.
-Evan Hanley (12)

I appreciate the work you've done to become our president. The toughest job in America is now yours!
-Colleen McArdle (10)

Ed board details who should pay for college, what student budget should include

From the recesses and homely environment of elementary classrooms, we have made our way into a high school of cliches, AP classes and 2,000 plus students. Now we worry about post-primary education, and with the rapidly rising costs of tuition, we must decide how to pay for it, without setting our futures as collateral. If the parents are financially able, are they responsible for paying for our education, or must we bear that burden?

Some of us believe that ethically, the responsibility lies with our parents. While there are numerous merits of having a job during college, the duty of paying for our education is on our parents. Parents hold the fundamental role of fostering our emotional, psychological and educational growth. Having a job has a detrimental effect on the ability of college students to fulfill their actual duty, which is to excel in their classes and education.

If parents did not take it upon themselves to pay for college, the burden placed on college students would have broad effects. Under the pressure to pay for college, students would choose the less expensive option over the alternative that provides a better education and a better future. The burden of college tuition can affect grades, college choice and a lack of time to experience the collegiate atmosphere.

More often, however, college funds are a shared duty between children and their parents. Although they may still be students, college members are adults who are responsible for themselves. It is somewhat hard to believe that a college graduate can immediately enter the workforce without any prior experience. Due to the present situation of college tuition and expenses, it is unreasonable for the duty to lie solely on either the shoulder of the parents or that of their children.

One point that has been agreed on is that for college students, active involvement in organizations, extracurricular activities or occupation builds important qualities. These roles provide the fundamental characteristics of time management, which cannot be put off until after college. Whether you need a job to pay for college or not, it is essential to invest time into activities outside of school or college work.

Despite where the responsibility of college tuition lies, the underlying problem remains the increasing expense of a college education. The use of loans to pay for college has become more and more popular, and their availability in the present credit crisis has made them harder to find.

To require a new adult to take on the burdens of funding, living expenses and the exorbitant cost of tuition while making the most of the opportunities they have earned is asking too much and it cheapens the value of an already overpriced education.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL
HALEY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR
ANDREW WEISS

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
ZACH VESSELS

DESIGNERS
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER
STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
MOLLY ZWEIG

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

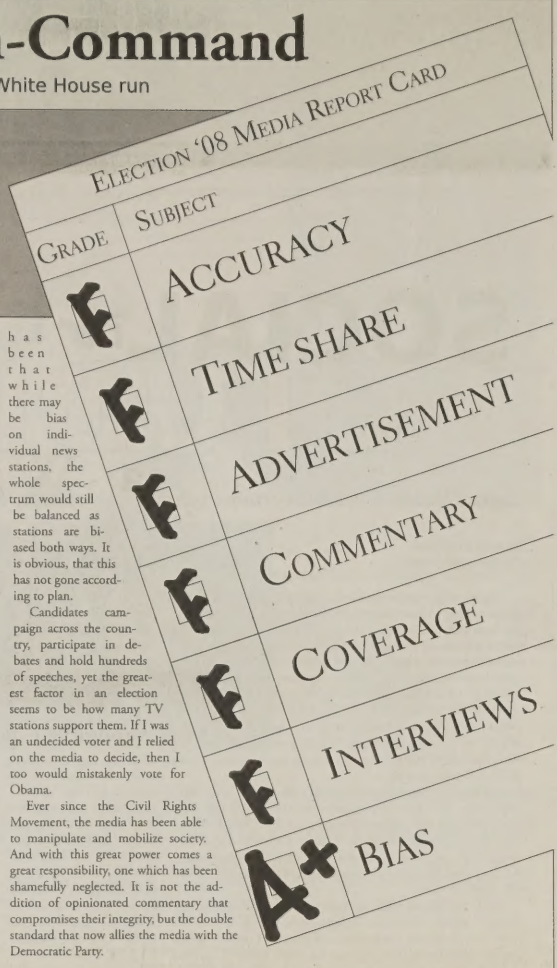
Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Obama's Second-in-Command

Give thanks to slanted news outlets for Democratic White House run

PHOTO: NEWSBUSTERS.ORG

PHOTO: REPORTERCAPS.COM



BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

The goal of television news is not to inform, but to entertain. Although this type of media bias is recognized, many Americans fail to understand its depth. When the question is brought up, the immediate response usually cites the notoriously conservative FOX News. Yet, in this election, it is apparent that a majority of new stations have one common agenda: get Barack Obama elected.

If you haven't already noticed, there has not been much conservative coverage of the election. Unless you consider the small community that watches the 700 Club, FOX News remains the only conservative news station. The Bill O'Reilleys that used to define media bias have lost their positions tenfold to the Keith Olbermanns and Chris Matthews of MSNBC. This station has had poor ratings for years, until the rise of their radical talk show hosts that sparked viewer interest. In fact, MSNBC has now become so afraid as to the extent of liberal bias in their news that they did not allow either of their two leftist talk show hosts direct election coverage. When a news station, which should be driven by their rising ratings, fears it has gone too far, shouldn't the viewers also be afraid?

Yes, this also means you cannot even trust "the most trusted name in news," CNN. This station, which for years has been thought of as balanced, showed its bias in the Ted Griffin interview with Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. Palin bashed the station, claiming that if she had predicted an international crisis if her presidential candidate was elected, like Democratic VP pick Joe Biden, then the media would be all over her, including the interviewer. The only response by Griffin: "You're right."

In this election, there have been three widely televised presidential debates. Yet, if you asked a majority of Americans who won, they may give you an answer, but most would not be able to tell you why. This is because it is not citizens who decide who did a better job, but the media. When the media decides that Obama did a better job, they will highlight his gilded words, aimed at getting him elected rather than doing good for the future of the country. However, they take time to point out that McCain sat on his chair awkwardly or made a weird face, but do not afford Obama the same courtesy. The media highlights Obama's countless stories of struggling poor people. Who wouldn't vote for a candidate whose only platform is to help the poor?

> "In this election, it is apparent that a majority of new stations have one common agenda: get Barack Obama elected."
>
> **YOGESH JONNA**
> Associate Opinion Editor

Despite common beliefs, media bias has been a relatively new factor in presidential elections. Until 1989, the Fairness Doctrine imposed by the Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) required news and radio stations to show both sides of controversial issues. Rightfully so, it was removed as a violation of first-amendment rights. The underlying concept has been that while there may be bias on individual news stations, the whole spectrum would still be balanced as stations are biased both ways. It is obvious, that this has not gone according to plan.

Candidates campaign across the country, participate in debates and hold hundreds of speeches, yet the greatest factor in an election seems to be how many TV stations support them. If I was an undecided voter and I relied on the media to decide, then I too would mistakenly vote for Obama.

Ever since the Civil Rights Movement, the media has been able to manipulate and mobilize society. And with this great power comes a great responsibility, one which has been shamefully neglected. It is not the addition of opinionated commentary that compromises their integrity, but the double standard that now allies the media with the Democratic Party.

Since when have taxes defined patriotism?

WHO PAYS

Federal income tax revenue comprises 50% of total government receipts.

American Workers	Total Receipts
Top 1%	40%
Top 2-5%	20%
Top 6-10%	11%
Top 11-25%	15%
Top 26-50%	11%
Bottom 50%	3%

> "We will always be faced with economic challenges, and history has taught us that punishing the rich with steep income taxes helps no one."
>
> **ASHLEY HEATH**
> Opinion Editor

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

Taxes are an unfortunate necessity. Just as many citizens struggle to find the means to pay them, the government struggles to find new ways to collect them.

Since the post-Revolutionary era, states have indirectly taxed undesirable behavior. Pennsylvania established an excise tax on liquor in part "to restrain persons in low circumstances from an immoderate use thereof."

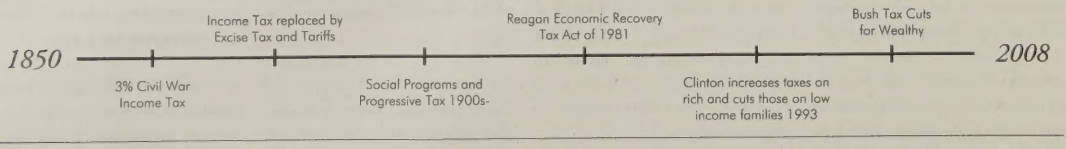
The tradition continues. Today, we tax income because success has become the undesirable behavior. It too has become a sin tax and the irony of this lies in that the sin belongs to those who support income taxes. Redistribution of wealth is the sin of envy. The have-nots envy the haves in a recurring case of class warfare as they irrationally seek to sabotage the success of those who are better off.

While some believe that the wealthy should be taxed because they have the ability to contribute more, in reality, they have already made their more generous contribution to the economy. Those we wish to punish are the businessmen and innovators, the doctors and lawyers, the men and women that take on jobs that require additional degrees and many times an extensive and pricey education. Not only do they fill key vocational roles, but they have a vital part in the economy. High income gives them significant buying power. They are buying the products that the blue-collar work force is employed to produce. They have the capitol to start businesses which employ thousands of workers. They have the ability to buy the new technology that starts out expensive, but when funded, becomes more affordable for the middle and lower class consumers. And their excess wealth is our saving grace when crisis hits, whether it is economic depression or natural disaster.

How did we come to support such self-destructive practices?

Income taxes were first imposed in 1861 with the commencement of the Civil War to fund defense efforts. The 3 percent tax, however, was abolished after the war in 1872 and the government found tariffs and excise taxes; a tax on a specific products, such as liquor or tobacco, would suffice for providing 90 percent of their revenue. It was simple. In times of war, an income tax was imposed. Victory was secured and the taxes were discontinued, an economic Cincinnatus of sorts. As our military endeavors became more costly, taxpayers began to bear more of the burden, footing one-third of the defense bill in World War II. True to form, though, Congress cut taxes five times after the war ended, returning to a bottom tax rate of 1 percent and top rate of 25 percent, therein strengthening the economy. With the stock market crash in 1929, Congress increased tax rates, with detrimental effects. The concept of social programs caught on and Social Security provided yet another reason to increase taxes. This time, taxpayers would not see the same relief after World War II as they had before. The federal tax burden of the GDP during wartime was 20.9 percent, and by 1952 it had returned to 19 percent. Relief would not come until the Reagan Administration and his Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, bringing the top tax bracket down to 50 percent.

Mistakes of the Clinton administration have brought the economy to the forefront during the current election, while Joe the Plumber puts Obama's socialist values in sharp perspective. We will always be faced with economic challenges, and history has taught us that punishing the rich with steep income taxes helps no one. The question is, though, have we learned our lesson?


1850
3% Civil War Income Tax
Income Tax replaced by Excise Tax and Tariffs
Social Programs and Progressive Tax 1900s-
Reagan Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981
Clinton increases taxes on rich and cuts those on low income families 1993
Bush Tax Cuts for Wealthy
2008

LEFT AND WRITE | Tax & Spend Liberals vs. Fiscal Conservatism

Invest in the future with government funds

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Many fiscally liberal people believe government spending puts money back into the economy and people's pockets; this, however, does not mean that there will be "big government." Spending, particularly deficit spending and spending that stays within the United States, provides the much needed short-term stimulus that bolsters the economy to help out of the recession to which it is headed. It helps provide valuable public goods for the people, such as infrastructure and education, which lift the economy from the current hardships.

Ideally, the spending must be created by cleaning up supplementary spending on extraneous programs that do not work. Spending is a good investment for the future, saving vast quantities of money in the long run. For instance, government-funded research on alternative energy sources will dramatically decrease America's dependency on foreign oil, despite what opponents say. The government is eons ahead of the market in technology--look at the military--so the government can provide the necessary advancements.

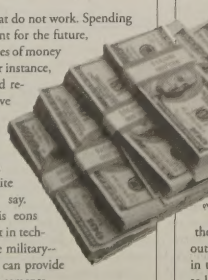


PHOTO: WWW.BARRYBOWLING.COM

Spend within budget, do not exceed powers

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

The common defense for government spending has been priming the market, yet the established institution is too inefficient and bureaucratic to do so accurately — we should have already learned this from the failure of the 1930s social programs to bring America out of the Great Depression. This expansion in the size of government has made it unable to keep in check the hundreds of departments it funds for specific purposes. Government spending looks good on the surface: it will help the lower classes in the short term and it sounds good in a campaign, but it will never help America advance for the future.

As a society, we have put so much faith into the government that we expect it to pay to find the next energy source, for our retirement, for our medical bills and for our daily lives. For example, when has government-funded research ever brought any significant technological advance that enhanced the standard of living? Never. If you really want money back in the people's hands and new energy sources, cut taxes and provide incentives for the private industry, whose profit motive will bring about real growth.

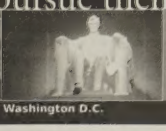
LIFE

students who travel frequently in order to pursue their interests, 6a

page 5a
issue 5 volume 39
homestead high school
4510 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Loran Saggu

Derek Kinzer


Washington D.C.

Monday, November 10, 2008

Early bird gets the scholarship

I've had one thing on my mind recently, and I know it may not apply (you'll get the pun later) to a lot of you right now, but you'll all be able to relate to it sooner than you think. I've spent the vast majority of the past few months of my like applying for college. And it stinks.

Once you're a senior, you will wonder what you're still doing here. There's no way around it. You'll feel like you should be in college right now; you'll want the dorm, the lenient schedule and the no parents. You will not be able to wait until you leave the house and get away from them. But, you'll still miss them. Shocking, I know.

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOC. EDITOR

The actual process of applying, however, will probably be your worst college experience. You'll enjoy applying for colleges like you'll enjoy getting a hole drilled into your head. Everything else will be great.

My keyboard has gotten quite a workout from all the mundane typing I've done in the wee hours of the morn; there's definitely more writing involved in applying for colleges that you think. I've written like I've never written before. I've gloated about myself like I've never gloated before. And I've stressed like I've never stressed. But it'll all be worth it. Maybe. Possibly. I hope.

But for now, let me take you to a magical, far away land where admissions officers roam free, where deans' of admissions signature stamps at the ready for mass signing and where paranoid students like me get ulcers. In this wondrous place, you'll discover the worries and headaches that come along with getting ready to go off to college, and you'll thank God for the Common App.

The first thing you want do when you finally start thinking about applying is to narrow down your search to a few colleges. This will make things easier in the long run. I had absolutely no clue until about a week ago.

Then, visit a few campuses. I know some people who have visited ten campuses, and I know people who have visited a grand total of none. I fall into the latter category, if you don't count visiting my brother at college for half a day. The more you get to know a college, the more you'll know if you want to go there or not.

Finally, complete the applications themselves. Make sure you fill them out on that new fangled thing you kids call the Internet—they prefer it that way. Write the seemingly countless essays, collect your teacher recommendations, release your transcript (through heaven-sent Docufide) and send them off.

Through my multiple mini-panic attacks, I've finally come to the conclusion that I will be going to attend Indiana University (I'm 98% sure), but I can't throw out my Prozac just yet. If you know me, you know that lately I've been stressing about where I'm going to live on the campus. Should I get a single room, or should I have a roommate? What dorm? Then I have to decide what classes I'll take. And then there's my major, which is a whole other story. My whole life rides on the location of my freshman year dorm. Decisions, decisions.

But, no matter where I end up of what I end up doing, I have a feeling I'm going to love it. I [finally] get to live on my own. I love my parents, but I think it's time for this baby bird to flee the nest.

Look at me—It's the beginning of November, and I'm already talking about college. Help me.

FORTUNATELY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT DAYS TO KNOW IF WE'VE ACCEPTED YOUR AD APPLICATION. CONTACT US TO SEE YOUR AD HERE.

thespartana@gmail.com
(260)431-2261

PHOTO BY CLAIRE LUNDERGAN

Aldersgate church travels to Capitol for seminars on developing eco-friendly building

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
WRITER

It is not easy being green, but Aldersgate United Methodist Church is taking on the challenge. Recently, 12 students and seven adults from the congregation traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit important sites and to learn how to make their building more eco-friendly.

"We attended seminars during the day about the environment," Claire Lundergan (12) said. "We learned about our carbon footprint, greenhouse gases and global warming."

The seminar was hosted by The General Board of Church and Society, based in Washington, D.C. and set up just for the Aldersgate church group to learn about saving the earth.

"Our planet is in jeopardy, and we're not taking care of it as we should," Lindsey Carden (9) said. "People need to be more educated so they know what's going on."

> "The seminar made me realize how much we do daily to destroy our earth. I am personally going to be more conscious of my surroundings to make the planet better."
>
> **CLAIRE LUNDERGAN (12)**
> Student

Presentations by prominent environmental advocates showcased how to educate others about the dangers of global warming.

"One of Al Gore's representatives came to talk to us," Lundergan said. "We also had a woman who prepped us to talk to [Indiana Senator Richard] Lugar about climate control."

Through these presentations and speeches, the students from Southwest Allen County schools and adults alike learned about what they could do to stop this inconvenient truth.

"[There are] many small changes we could make that would have a huge effect on the environment," Suzi Lundergan, mother and chaperone for the trip, said.

The group has many new ideas for ways to help make their church more green, from increasing awareness to simple steps that make an impact.

"We may install motion sensors that would control the lights when people go in and out of the room," Suzi Lundergan, said.

Combined with other efforts to recycle more, Aldersgate developed a program where area businesses can bring their paper products to the church to be recycled.

"Our goal is to slowly try to change the church, [by doing things like] recycling more and educating people," Claire Lundergan said.

It is hoped that a class about the environment will become available for church members. Carden is in the process of writing an informative bulletin for members.

Along with attending the seminar, the group also visited sites in the Washington D.C. area, including Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Capitol Building.

"We took a night tour to see all of the monuments," Claire Lundergan said. "We got to talk with [Senator] Lugar's staff and got a tour of the Capitol Building."

Even though the seminar focused on how to make the church more environmentally conscious, Claire Lundergan said the concepts can apply to school as well, citing the abundance of plastic foam used in the cafeteria.

"The seminar made me realize how much we do daily to destroy our earth," Claire Lundergan said. "I am personally going to be more conscious of my surroundings to make the planet better."

PHOTOS BY LINDSEY CARDEN

Above: Lindsey Carden (9) and Claire Lundergan (12) are escorted by a military official. Below: Students from Aldersgate smile for a picture at the White House.

Student Rotarians show consideration, responsibility, act as role models for others

BY AREZOO NAZARI
WRITER

From the many students that attend Homestead High School, eight are chosen to represent what it takes to be a student Rotarian. Juniors Ben Hazen, Sameerah Alkhairy, Rafal Swiatkowski, Becky Katz, Joey Dynako, Quinn Brenneke, Samantha Scaringelli and Ashley Meruani have been chosen as this year's Student Rotarians. With their consideration for others, unselfish interests in family and school, personality and ability to assume responsibility, these students have the opportunity to share their concerns and advocate world understanding through international humanitarian service programs and educational and cultural exchanges.

This honor is not widely recognized by the student body, yet the foundation is an international not-for-profit organization that supports programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges.

Being a Rotarian is a chance for students to develop community service projects to better today's most critical issues, such as violence, illiteracy, poverty, hunger and the environment.

"Given the criteria, I think that this is the greatest honor a student can receive while in high school," Diane Rice, counselor and Student Rotarian coordinator, said.

Being chosen for this award is not an easy task. There is no application or student decision involved; only the recommendations of teachers, counselors and administrators make the final decision as to which student represents Homestead.

Dependability, service, leadership and patriotism are the criteria one must fulfill to be considered for Student Rotarian.

Staff members were asked to give the name of one junior student who exemplified these qualifications. From the names that were nominated, a list of top twenty-five was made, and a final vote allowed the top eight students to be named Rotarians.

"The experience is wonderful and it seems like a great honor. I am happy that teachers noticed all my good qualities," Alkhairy, the rotarian for the month of November, said.

The eight Rotarians are treated to a lunch at the Holiday Inn Downtown, where they meet with the community's business and professional men and women who promote high ethical standards and help build peace and goodwill in the world. This organization has been supported only by voluntary contributions that hope to share a better vision of the world. This outlook is supported by their motto, "service above self."

The students choose to participate in a variety of learning opportunities, including youth study exchanges, rotary speech contests, rotary youth leadership awards, world affairs conferences and music camp scholarships. Not only do these activities open doors for the students' futures, but they also allow them to meet community and business leaders in their chosen field of interest.

"I am really looking forward to the experience this honor will give me. I hope to meet some influential people in Ft. Wayne who will give me advice on how to be a positive leader," Brenneke said.

These students have accepted the responsibility and honor to take the role of a Student Rotarian. They have worked hard through their high school years, and teachers have noticed their motivation and work ethic. Their willingness in cooperation, courtesy and loyalty has given them the opportunity to take part in future service projects that will influence the community.

STUDENT ROTARIANS

Ben Hazen
Sameerah Alkhairy
Rafal Swiatkowski
Becky Katz
Joey Dynako
Quinn Brenneke
Samantha Scaringelli
Ashley Meruani

"I think that this is the greatest honor a student can receive while in high school."

DIANE RICE
Counselor

Oh, the places you'll go

While some students stay at home, others spend time exploring their interests by traveling cross-country and overseas. These six students explain how getting there is half of the fun.

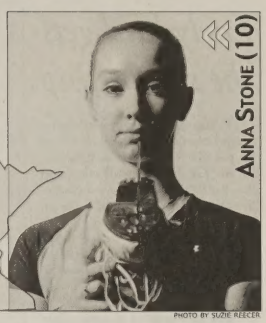


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Spartana: Why did you start ice skating?

Stone: My mom was a skater, but she didn't want me to skate. One day I begged her to take me ice skating. She had skated when she was young, and she knew about all the drama and just how complicated the sport can be and how easy it is to get disappointed.

Spartana: What is your inspiration? Do you have a mentor?

Stone: My inspiration is just trying to do better and be the best I can be while having fun. My coach was really successful as a skater; I just switched to her in March.

Spartana: When did you start traveling for competitions?

Stone: I started traveling to competitions because there is only one competition a year in Ft. Wayne. It was in Indianapolis, I think. I was only five years old. The farthest I traveled for a competition was Columbus, Ohio. I also went to Minnesota for a skating camp.

Spartana: What is your favorite part of ice skating?

Stone: I love doing shows. They're so much fun, and there isn't any pressure, and recently I have had solos, which are so relaxed and not competitive at all.

Spartana: How rigorous is your training?

Stone: During the summer I train for 20 hours a week, and during the school year it's about 13. I have ballet and skating at McMillan Ice Arena and I go to the YMCA for strength and cardio.

Spartana: Do you have any professional aspirations?

Stone: I would love to be involved in a professional show like Skaters on Ice, where you tour and go to different cities and stuff. I honestly don't know [how difficult it is]. Sometimes [the shows] just need bodies, but I've always resigned myself to the fact that it's going to be hard to train and go to college. I was once asked to go to Vegas for a show.

Spartana: Do you have someone choreograph you shows for you?

Stone: For the shows, the show director hires someone, but for my own programs there is a woman in Indianapolis who takes music I select and choreographs it.

Spartana: When did you start training the way you do now?

Stone: I started going down to Indianapolis three years ago, and this summer I started training more and that is when I started skating every day.

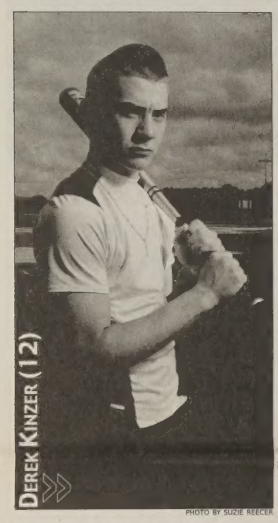


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Spartana: Why did you go to Florida?

Kinzer: I went down to Florida for a wood bat championship. Scouts from colleges and professional baseball teams come down and I thought it would be a good way to showcase my abilities as a baseball player. I played on a team from Virginia called the Orioles Scout Team.

Spartana: How long have you played baseball?

Kinzer: I've been playing baseball as long as I can remember. I started by playing t-ball as a little kid.

Spartana: What do you plan on doing with your skills in the future?

Kinzer: I hope that my skills will help me get a scholarship to pay for college. From there I either would like to go pro or, if that doesn't work out, go to medical school.

Spartana: What was your favorite part of the trip, other than playing baseball?

Kinzer: I got to spend time with my family when I wasn't playing baseball. My dad and my grandpa came down to visit, which I thought was pretty cool. I don't get to spend a lot of time with my grandpa that often, so I got to when I was down there.

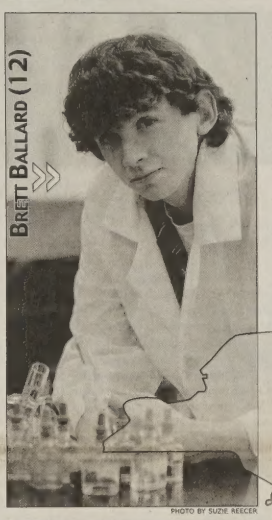


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Spartana: How did you get the opportunity to go to New York to research cancer?

Ballard: There is a research program at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and I found it online when I was looking for programs. I applied and was accepted to go. I've been interested in medicine for a while. I've taken lots of biology classes, and I'm very interested in how the body works. I'd like to help stop diseases like cancer from affecting the body.

Spartana: Did you or any of your peers discover anything that may lead to a cure?

Ballard: [The program] was more of the research part of science, but if I could have found a cure that would have been great, but I seriously doubted that would happen going into the program. I'm still nowhere near getting close to [finding a cure].

Spartana: What all did you do while in New York?

Ballard: Every day I would take the subway to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and I'd work under my mentor Dr. Slocum. As a team, we would work together culturing cancer cells. I would clone cells to try to determine if these cells had properties of stem cells, and if they had the same properties of the parent population. It was a great experience for me. I lived in a dorm, and I met a lot of new people.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORAN SAGGU

Spartana: Where have you traveled?

Saggu: I have traveled to England, Canada, France, Washington D.C., Florida, and Chicago.

Spartana: Which location is your favorite and why?

Saggu: My favorite location would have to be England. This is because I get to be with my family, who all live there, from both my mother's and father's side. I get to hang out with my cousins and there is also quite a lot to do. There are beaches, parks, museums and there is a very diverse culture. I just love the experience every time I go.

Spartana: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you travel and why?

Saggu: I would actually like to travel to Australia. I want to see the kangaroos and go across the terrain. I would love to go and experience being in a desert.

Spartana: If you could suggest a location for someone else to travel to and money was not an option, where would you suggest?

Saggu: I would suggest that they go to England. There is so much to experience there. I have not done it all, and it is a lot of fun. There is much culture and I think anyone would find something they enjoy there.

Spartana: How often do you travel?

Saggu: [My family and I] try to go somewhere every other year. It is not always a far location but somewhere we as a family can all have a good time. We have not been traveling much recently, with the gas prices as they were.

Spartana: With what organization did you go to China?

Stace: I went with a group from my church. There were 11 of us that went for eight days, and we worked with Living Hope, which is an adoption agency, and we also worked with Campus Crusade for Christ on a college campus.

Spartana: What places in China did you visit?

Stace: We were in Beijing when we worked at the orphanage, and then we also went to Shiyan and visited a college campus ministry.

Spartana: What type of activities did you partake in?

Stace: When we were at the orphanage we got to serve as the American government officials, and we were Americans that were supporting this deed because a lot of times America hasn't always supported the things that China does. We also got to hang out with the kids. We taught them a micro-enterprise, we taught them how to make greeting cards so that they can support themselves financially.

Spartana: What experiences did you gain from this?

Stace: I realized that I take a lot of stuff for granted, and it just made me realize that we have so much in America. Even being able to speak English is such a gift in China; you can impact China so much by just being able to do something that we take for granted everyday. It's an eye-opening experience. Even the way they treat their country is different. Even though we have these pollution regulations to fix the the environment, we really do take care of ourselves. America really is a good country to live in.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CORTNEY STACE

PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY HOLLEMAN

Spartana: Why did you start four-wheeling?

Holleman: Mainly because I rode four-wheelers before, starting five years ago. I didn't race, I mainly just trail-rode. But then the Motoplex opened up, so a couple of my dad's friends went up there to watch the races, and they all thought I could do it. So I gave it a shot, and I liked it and I didn't do too terribly, so it stuck.

Spartana: Where have you been for races?

Holleman: I've been to London, Kentucky, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Atlanta, Georgia, Newberry, Massachusetts, New Jersey, all around the Indiana area, North Manchester, New Castle and the outskirts of Chicago.

Spartana: What is your favorite place to ride?

Holleman: Probably the local track Hang Time, because it's really fast, has a lot of big jumps and it's just an all-around fun track.

Spartana: What was one of your worst experiences while on a four-wheeler?

Holleman: One time at this track in North Manchester, I got caught on a root coming out of the ground, and it ended up flipping my quad over on top of me. It popped my femur out of my hip and then I had to shove it back in place. I had to be on crutches for a while. I could not walk at all.

Spartana: What all have you won?

Holleman: I've won the Indoor State Championship twice. I was the Hoosier State Champion two years ago. I won the Hoosier Tires Series twice, went to Nationals and got third, fifth and seventh. When I was there I got a lot of coverage; it was my first year in Nationals and people didn't really know much about me, they just knew I did well in the races. So when I went to the race and finished in a pretty good spot people realized I wasn't just all talk that I could actually ride.

Spartana: Do you have any future plans for Quad racing?

Holleman: If everything goes alright, and I do well next National Series on the 450, and then do well locally and get a couple high finishes in Nationals, hopefully I can get in A-Ride class and get a sponsorship from a big company like Kawasaki or Yamaha to give me a factory ride. Then ride Pro/Am for a few years. Pro is the ideal. But I don't go out there thinking I need to win every race, I love doing it, and I'm not in it for the money or the fame or anything like that. It's just something I really love to do.

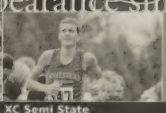
SPORTS

boys' soccer qualifies to make first state appearance since 1999, 8a

page 7a
issue 5 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Volleyball

Cheerleading


XC Semi State

Monday, November 10, 2008

Now a part of teams, varsity athletes remember for their careers:

IT STARTED WITH A DREAM

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

Participating in a sport on the varsity level, is not something that someone decides to do on a whim. To be a Spartan, most people are involved with their particular sports for a very long time. Dedication and determination are just a few qualities an athlete must have to keep up with the level of competition in varsity athletics.

Jena Hamrick (10), a varsity point guard on the girls' basketball team, has played basketball her whole life. As a girl, Hamrick played in a YMCA (Y-Ball) league, along with the Aboite Girls Basketball League (AGBL). One may wonder how Hamrick has learned to become such a physical force on the court, which she accredits to her days playing in the Y-Ball league.

"The YMCA league helped me out a lot because I played against guys. When you play against guys all the time, it teaches you to be physical with other players," Hamrick said.

As she grew to be a teenager, Hamrick started to play travel basketball in an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) league in order to acquire additional playing time.

Even members of the varsity boys basketball team have participated in younger leagues. Players like Mike Bradley (12), Andy Phillippe (11), and Jay Curry (11) have played in the Future Spartans league, Y-Ball leagues, and on the AAU circuit, travelling to places like Louisville and West Virginia.

Swimmer Greg Taivalkoski (12) started swimming for the downtown YMCA in fourth grade. During that time, he practiced twice a week for four hours. He then continued swimming at Summit Middle School. Being on the varsity team requires a swimmer to attend eleven practices a week. Nine of the practices are conducted in the pool and two are lifting sessions. Swimming practices last a total of about twenty hours per week.

"All my hard work paid off because I swim for one of the best teams in the area. I am always proud to go out and swim for Homestead," Taivalkoski said.

The swim team will look to capture that elusive state title this year after an off-season of hard work and dedication.

Grant Welter (12) has always been looking forward to playing soccer on the varsity level in high school. He has played travel soccer since he was eight, starting with Sports Club, and then moving on to play for the Fort Wayne Citadel club and the Fort Wayne Fever. Welter did not play soccer in middle school; he instead decided to concentrate solely on playing with the Fort Wayne Fever.

"I used to go to the Canterbury versus Homestead games when I was younger. I was always so excited to [be able to eventually] play in them as a little c kid; it's unbelievable that I'm playing in them now," Welter said.

No matter what sport an athlete participates in, whether it is basketball, swimming, soccer or anything else, all athletes put in a tremendous amount of time and effort. For Hamrick, Taivalkoski and Welter, their hard work paid dividends as they all participate in varsity athletics.

PHOTO BY SUZIE KEECH

Cheerleaders optimistic for state competition success

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

As the football, soccer and even band seasons all come to a close, the varsity cheerleading squad continues to perform. This past weekend, while other teams were competing in Indianapolis for state titles, the girls attended their regional competition and did better than expected.

"I would have been happy to just have placed in the top 15," Casey Bodigon (10) said.

The team unquestionably surpassed their wish to place in the top 15 and landed in the top five, placing third out of the 20 teams they competed against.

The team believes their performance at the regional competition was their best to date.

"I think that as a squad we all definitely gave more [effort] than usual," Bodigon said. "So I totally agree with the score sheets and where we were placed."

"We did so well at regionals. We had no deductions and our energy level was amazing," Kylene Coate (11) said.

Although the girls are more than satisfied with how the squad did during the regional competition, they still expect nothing less than perfection during their performance at the state competition, which was held on Nov. 8.

"We have made a few changes to our routine this week to ensure that we will get the top scores we need to place," Coate said. "State is going to be even better than regionals."

For some of the team, going to state means more than simply going to cheer. There is also a battle between nerves and adrenaline.

"I'm so thrilled about going to state. We all deserve it," Coate said.

"I'm a little nervous, but I'm also very excited," Bodigon said. "I get always get nervous, but after that the adrenaline gets me hyped."

After the girls' state competition, their season will come to an end, and with mixed feelings the girls welcome the finale.

"This was a long season," Coate said. "But it has also been a fun and successful year."

"The experience was good," Bodigon said. "We performed so well at regionals and hopefully we will at state as well. This has definitely been a good year for the squad."

TRY-OUTS

Any cheerleaders interested in trying out for the basketball season squad must pick up and complete the packet from the athletic office. Try-outs will be held in the ninth grade academy gym today from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and tomorrow from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The varsity, junior varsity and freshmen cheer squads sit on the gym floor, forming one circle for the award ceremony at the Homestead competition earlier this fall. All of the teams form clusters while waiting to hear placings.

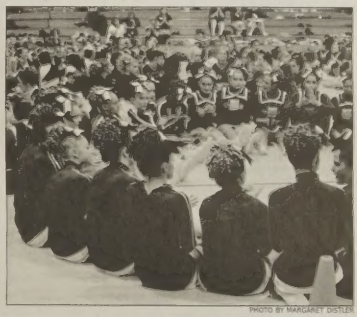


PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

The other election: fall athletes shine

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

This past Tuesday, millions of Americans cast their vote for the next President of the United States. I did not. I was 119 days too young to cast my vote. Yet, in the spirit of this patriotic week, I feel that I need to cast my vote on something. Since I hate politics and adore sports, why not cast my votes for the 2008 Fall Sports awards. I hope this idea is not too radical for my readers. No pun intended.

Biggest Surprise- After winning less than five games last season and only nine games this season, the varsity volleyball team shocked everyone in the post season. Although the team did not win a conference title, the Lady Spartans advanced to the Sectional Championship where they faced a tough Huntington North team. The team did not bring home the hardware, but advancing so far in the state tournament has been the biggest surprise of this Fall sports season.

Dominant 1-2 Punch- All season long, the boys cross country team was led by the dominant duo of Kodi Mullins (10) and Evan Hanley (12). Consistently running in the 16 minute range, these two runners led the team to a regional and semi-state appearance.

Newcomers of the Year- The girls cross country team welcomed freshmen Kayla Lubkert, Lauren Purlee, Kaylin McCormick, and Haley Havert this season. Each girl ran varsity races throughout the season, resulting in strong invitational finishes. The pack running and overall talent allowed the team to advance out of regionals into the semi-state round. Look for these freshmen to make large strides in their years to come. No pun intended.

Best Game- In an early conference matchup, the Spartan football team was down by five points with three minutes remaining on the clock when the Spartan offense tok the field. Precisely and meticulously, the team marched down the field behind some strong runs by Jamar Freeman (11) and arm of Logan Laughlin (12). With only 24 seconds remaining on the clock, Freeman ran for a 5 yard touchdown to put the team up for good. Final score: 20-19. The win gave the Spartans the inside track to the conference championship.

Biggest Upset- Slated against the No. 3 ranked Bishop Dwenger for the sectional championship, the Lady Spartans soccer team played the game of its life. The score was tied at the end of regulation, resulting in penalty kicks. The teams traded goal for goal. After goalkeeper Sam Scaringelli (11) stopped a Lady Saint shot, Teresa Busse (10) sank the winning goal. The Lady Spartans went on to win the Regional championship.

Best Team- Without question, the varsity boys soccer team received my vote for best team of the 2008 Fall sports teams. Whenever a team goes undefeated in the regular season at 21-0-2, beats hated rival Canterbury twice in one season, and reaches the state finals only to lose to the two-time defending state champion, they deserve to be given the title of Best Team. The journey was fun to follow and even though a state trophy was not brought home, a sense of pride was given to the whole school.

As the election process draws to a close, I can only hope my votes mattered. With these 2008 Fall sports teams going above and beyond expectations, I think it is safe to say Spartan athletics is on the right track. Maybe this athletic success is the change our school needs.

FROM THE BOOTH

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

Well, if any of you read my little snippet last issue, you saw my concern with the student cheering section at our football games. You guys answered the call. Nice work. Although we did not prevail, we had the support we needed and that is what I was the most stressed about. Now I have some free time until the Spartan basketball team, which won the NHC title last year, takes the floor in early December. What should I talk about? Why not the soccer team? Boy, did they prove a lot of people wrong, going undefeated and making it all the way to the state finals. Not too shabby. Yes, they lost and got "fourth," but you have to remember who they played. In the first round, the team was matched up with Evansville Memorial, which is now the two-time defending champion and is undefeated over the past two full years. Being a senior, it is awesome to see my friends succeed like that. The baseball team went to state last year anchored by this year's seniors and then the soccer team had such a good season this year. I am not afraid to say the class of 2009.is the best athletic class to come through Homestead in a long time. Any naysayers? Please voice your opinion to me. You know where to find me.

ADVERTISE HERE
CONTACT US AT THESPARTANA@GMAIL.COM

Captain Grant Welter (12) copes with the result of Homestead's 1-0 loss. Top ranked Evansville Memorial went on to win the state championship.

LOSING THE TITLE THAT WAS SO CLOSE

Boys soccer team ends season with loss in first game of state tournament

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

"Close, but no cigar." This can apply to anything: school, sports, and so many other areas. In the case of the boys varsity soccer team, that saying could be implied. Last year, the Spartans made it to semi state and lost to Goshen. They got over the hill this time by winning semi state to make it to the state finals, where they faced the defending champion Evansville Memorial Tigers.

Memorial was ranked number one in the state and boasted an undefeated record that spanned over the past two years. At high noon, the Spartans took the field against a team with an identical record (21-0-2) and key players in the same position. Right away the game was controlled by the Spartans, keeping the ball where they wanted to the entire game, except for one little miscue.

Halfway through the first half, the Tigers got the ball in Homestead territory after a kick that went off the mark and rolled to goalie Justin Hanford (11). Hanford continued to wind up and kick the ball but misread the bounce of the ball and slightly missed getting a good foot on it. The ball was kicked directly to a Memorial forward who placed it in the corner of the net.

Now down 1-0, the varsity team roared back keeping everything in Evansville territory, resulting in plenty of chances to score. Their best chance came late in the first half off a corner kick. After Grant Welter (12) kicked the corner towards the goal, the Spartans had one great chance to score. Three Spartan offensive players tried kicking the ball into the Memorial goal. However, a miraculous save by a Memorial defender was made, although the ball appeared to cross the goal line. After an uproar from parents and students alike because of the apparent goal, play continued. The second half brought much of the same story as the Spartans controlled the ball, but could not score.

Homestead lost 1-0 in front of thousands of fans and a handful of newscasters. The Cinderella story came to an end. No one had expected the team to be this successful. They weren't even expected to go undefeated, let alone head to head with the defending state champions in the state semifinals. But the Spartans silenced the non believers and made the believers stand up and cheer. Headed by seniors such as Welter, Wyatt Sorg, Tom Gallmeyer, Sean Dulworth, Brent Helton, and Chris Warren, the team reached the state finals.

"To get to state as a senior was awesome. I'm glad I saved my best year for my senior year." Welter said.

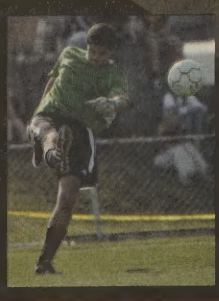
> "Personally, this was one of my favorite seasons because of how much success we had."
>
> **GRANT WELTER (12)**
> Varsity Soccer Captain

After the loss at state, the team looks towards next year. With the nucleus of the state team returning, another run is not out of the question. With Hanford in the goal, along with returning starters Ben Hazen (11), Conner McMahon (11), Zack Mettler (11), and the record holder for goals in a season Kegan Harkenrider (11), the Spartans look to be strong once again.

Welter will continue his soccer career in college, as he accepted a half ride scholarship to become a Mastodon of IPFW. Gallmeyer and Helton have also received interest from the Mastodons.

Capping off a great season with a state finals appearance is always a goal for any team. For this year's boys soccer team, that goal became a reality.

"Personally this was one of my favorite seasons because of how much success we had," said Welter. For the fans and parents in the stands, they will look back on this season as well and remember its greatness.



Top: Brent Helton (12) shields the ball from an Evansville Memorial player. Above left: Connor McMahon (11) traps the ball. Above right: Goalie Justin Hanford (11) let in an average of 0.45 goals per game during the season.

Above: Starters come together at Kuntz Field before the first half of the game. Right: Ben Hazen (11) fights off an opposing player while playing defense.
PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER AND MARGARET DISTLER

TAKING DOWN EVANSVILLE MEMORIAL

Despite a 1-0 loss, Homestead did not fail to bring down a player in the process. If you want to do the same, just follow these simple steps courtesy of Kegan Harkenrider (11).

1 Use intimidation to psych out player

2 Trip and throw simultaneously

3 Step back and put on air of innocence

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 6 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Friday, November 21, 2008

NHS adds 95 students

National Honors Society passes flame to freshly inducted scholars

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

High school offers students a wide range of opportunities in the way of gratification for scholastic prowess. Academic awards, potential scholarships and scholarly clubs all come to mind; however, the foremost and perhaps most reputable of the aforementioned is undoubtedly the National Honors Society. The club hosted this year's induction ceremony in the auditorium at 7 pm on Nov. 12, following the ceremony with a dessert buffet provided by the Parent Club.

According to the official NHS website, "The National Honors Society is the nation's premiere organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character." This group of distinguished students is far more than an exclusive club.

"Students are to have a 10.0 GPA at the least and also need to be approved by teachers to be full-fledged members of National Honors Society," Arezoo Nazari (12), NHS board member, said.

> "NHS induction is probably the most fun meeting and the most celebratory."
>
> **ELIZABETH FUNK (12)**
> NHS Knitting Chair

Along with meeting these requirements, students must also must be juniors or seniors to be eligible for membership. While a 10.0 GPA may seem to be lofty, a handful of upperclassmen are privileged enough to have their NHS membership as a scholarly badge of academic honor. In addition to exemplary grades and teacher approval, students must also fulfill certain requirements to retain their membership.

"[Students are required] to perform five hours of volunteer-

NHS, continued on 2a

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Every year, National Honors Society is comprised of seniors and juniors who have received a 10.0 GPA or above.

91	4	179
Juniors inducted	Seniors inducted	Total members after induction

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

a family affair

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Above: Derek Gulley (9) as Tony Kirby consults Nick Jewson (12) as Mr. Kirby during one scene. Molly Zwang (10) as Penny Sycamore talks with friend of the family Donald, played by Steve Batzka (11).

Drama students stage acclaimed comedy for three nights

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

A crazy plotline, zany characters and a host of talented Spartans will take to the stage in the fall play You Can't Take it with You. Premiering last night at 7:30 pm, the opening show was the first of only three performances. With the confidence of a successful opening night, cast members have two more nights to showcase their talent to fellow students and the rest of the community. The remaining two shows are scheduled for tonight, Friday, Nov. 21, and tomorrow night, Saturday, Nov. 22. Both show times are 7:30 pm and tickets are available at the door. The cost for admission is $5.00 for students and $7.00 for adults.

Directed by the new English and drama teacher, Victoria Malooley, You Can't Take it with You is the Pulitzer Prize winning comedy about accepting where you come from and the love that only a family can give. Written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, this play is sure to get many laughs.

Set in the late 1930's, You Can't Take it with You is centered around the lives of the delightfully eccentric Sycamore family. While the Sycamores and those living under their roof may seem bizarre for their outrageous actions and outlandish

Fall Play, continued on 2a

Review: Young cast visible in nonetheless witty, congenial play

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
LIFE EDITOR

"You Can't Take It With You" is a poignant, thought-provoking story set during the Great Depression that focuses on the eccentric Sycamore family and their soon-to-be-married daughter Alice. The Sycamores genuinely approve of Alice's fiancé Tony Kirby, the son of a

Cast, continued on 2a

notable CHARACTERS

GRANDPA
David Ramsey (12)

MR. KIRBY
Nick Jewson (12)

KOLENKHOV
Natoes Ferrise (12)

RHEBA
Ashley Evans (11)

It's a BURGER THING

From hand washing to raw meat, fast food employees explore what make their companies tick — and their customers angry. See story on 8a.

"We do keep food longer than we're supposed to. Once you have to throw it away, you know you have to."

JACOB EVANS (12)
McDonald's Employee

Latin students aim for JCL state title

Teacher Adair estimates Crown Point may force Spartans into second place

PHOTO COURTESY KEARA SEIBERT

Keara Seibert (12), Lee Fransworth ('08), David Ramsey (12) and Ravi Vemula (11) await the results at last year's competition. This year's contest will be held at Indiana University on Mar. 13 and 14.

BY BRAD ADAMSON
WRITER

Junior Classical League (JCL) is one of the most well-known academic clubs in the world. The Spartan team will be competing for the state title at Indiana University on Mar. 13 and 14. Homestead will be competing against approximately 18 to 20 other high schools in this year's competition. Crown Point, North Central, Brownsburg, Elwood, Lawrence Central, Lawrence North and University School are only a few

JCL, continued on 2a

BRIEFS

BLACK TIE AFFAIR
Semi-Formal is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 6, from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm. This year's dance, with a theme of "Black Tie Affair," will take place in Homestead's Cafeteria. Student government will sell tickets from Dec. 1 to Dec. 5 for $20 each.

SENIOR T-SHIRTS ON SALE
Senior T-shirts will be for sale during all lunches until Wednesday, Nov. 26. A navy blue, short sleeve shirt with a design on the front and names of all seniors on the back is available for the class of 2009. They are on sale for $12, and orders will be placed the following week.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, STAND Fundraisers
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Left and Write, Ed Board, Letters to the Editor
PAGE 4A, Life: Black Friday Deals, Helicopter Parents, Hospitality Club
PAGE 5A, Life: Miss Indiana Pageant, Thanksgiving Traditions, Thankfulness for Holiday Sentiments
PAGE 6A, Sports: Witness to Greatness, Girls' Basketball, Minnesota Grand Prix
PAGE 7A, Sports: Boys' Basketball, From the Booth, Wrestling, Full Court Press
PAGE 8A, Feature: Behind the Counter and Above the Rumors

Legal Matters

We the People units statebound after district win

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

The recent presidential election has made it all too obvious how influential a role our government plays in the lives of Americans. Because of this, it becomes increasingly important that young people know how their government operates. Educating students about the importance of such facts, We the People is an inter-scholastic competition based on students' knowledge of United States government and the constitution. The Spartan team, led by teacher Keith Potter, recently won the district competition and will move on to state.

Weeks of preparation are involved in We the People, wherein the students create short speeches that will be given to a panel of three judges at the competitions. These judges are typically esteemed members of the community with expertise relevant to the topics discussed, like social studies teachers or attorneys. These groups of judges listens to the speeches, and then they ask each team of students a series of questions to test their overall understanding of the topics they have researched.

"The biggest challenge for a

Legal, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Dani Stephens (12) watches Beth Gigler (12) defend her view.

STAND plans year of awareness

Anti-genocide group to promote schoolwide material fast through video announcements

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Working together to support a cause, STAND club members are doing all they can to prevent genocide around the world by focusing on ways to raise funds and awareness for the humanitarian relief of genocide victims. To support many organizations this holiday season, the club will be participating a nationwide fundraiser called STAND Fast.

"One of our goals is to try to raise awareness," Jessica Nguyen (11) said. "We try to inform the public about the cruel genocides that are going on in Darfur and Burma right now. So far, we've made posters and flyers to post around the school. A second goal is to raise funds to financially support anti-genocide organizations. Right now, we are focusing on a nationwide even called the Stand Fast. Our third branch of goals is to take political action. In the past, STAND has written letters to state politicians."

On Dec. 3, students will be asked to fast one luxury item for the entire day. Then, they are asked to use the money they would have spent on that item and donate it to the STAND Fast foundation. During lunch and before school, donations will be collected and an informational table will be set up in the commons near the publications room.

Promoting the STAND Fast by making posters and advertisements, club members will be passing out brochures that summarize important information about Darfur and Burma. They will also have a video announcement on the day of the STAND Fast to encourage all interested students to participate.

> "While the group may seem idealistic, writing letters and making phone calls to our representatives really does matter. We have to hold our leaders accountable."
>
> **CELIA GRUNDMAN (11)**
> STAND President

Once the funds are collected, they will be used to raise awareness of the human rights conflict that is currently occurring in Burma and Darfur, easing the hardships of victims. All of the money STAND raises will go to the Genocide-Intervention Network's Civilian Protection program, an early warning system to protect civilians in eastern Burma and firewood patrols in Darfur. One of the biggest problems in the Darfur refugee camps is women being raped when they leave the safety of the camps in search of firewood; however, this is only one of the major problems occurring in genocides all around the world. STAND wants to make sure that everyone at Homestead knows and understands the importance of preventing this devastating problem.

"In STAND, one of the most important things is making sure that everyone is up to date on what is going on in the world in terms of latest news on the genocides in Darfur and Burma and what is happening to prevent them," Becky Katz (12) said.

For the rest of the year, STAND will have their hands full. Not only do they have to plan future fundraisers and events, but also they write letters to representatives. To accomplish their goals, STAND is always looking for new members to join the cause.

"People who join can meet others extremely concerned with human rights issues and learn that they actually can make a difference," Celia Grundman said (11). "While the group may seem idealistic, writing letters and making phone calls to our representatives really does matter. We have to hold our leaders accountable. Otherwise, they will take no action in stopping genocide."

PHOTO COURTESY KEARA SEIBERT

JCL members devour Latin-themed snacks at an after-school meeting.

JCL CONTINUED FROM 1A

that plan to attend.

Any student enrolled in a Latin class who is interested in sharing their knowledge of the language is welcome to join and compete. JCL meets the first Tuesday of every month to prepare for the competition. Like any school team, the group has multiple competitions in which the whole team participates to win.

"There are many competitions, not one," Jaya Sharma (11) said. "These competitions are team events. The next one [is] in February."

Any school that is a JCL member school in the state of Indiana is eligible to compete. Latin Teacher Kathy Adair is the founder of the JCL club at Homestead, which was formed 20 years ago, and the club has been competing since its inception. Adair is a state facilitator in the state competition, and she is also a part of the State Board, which coordinates similar events.

Although they have won several awards in the past, Homestead's JCL team is looking to win their first state title in years. However, Crown Point High School has won state for the last few years, leading Adair to believe that it may be difficult to capture the state title.

"I think we'll get second in state," Adair said. "We are first in academics, but not big in the art projects. We've been slaughtered by Crown Point in the past."

In these competitions, students must participate in various activities, collectively generating a total score for each school. Some of these activities include Jeopardy-style buzzer competitions called Certamen, academic tests, Latin oratory and graphic arts. Each student individually competes in these categories, trying to earn awards. Each award won has a point value, and the school that earns the most points wins the competition.

Preparation for competition begins as early as the beginning of the school year. Some students prepare themselves by testing their Latin knowledge through projects in the classroom and practicing their subjects.

"I prepare by working exceptionally hard on our projects and practicing Certamen," Wenting Shen (11) said.

On the other hand, some students tend to procrastinate, cramming only hours before the competition.

"I study on the bus," Michael Peters (10) said.

In the Certamen competition, students are given buzzers, and the first person to buzz in once a question is asked is given a chance to answer the question. To win Certamen, students must study diligently and be prepared to respond to a wide range of possible questions. To familiarize students with the event, there are two meets before state competition.

"There are two meets," Adair said. "There is one at Guerin Catholic High School and [at]The state competition at Indiana University will begin on Friday, Mar. 13, at 12 pm and will last until 12:30 am on Saturday. Then, students will return and continue their competition at 6:30 am, Saturday morning. The competition will be over around 12:30 pm, with all awards distributed and a winning school determined."

CAST CONTINUED FROM 1A

well-to- do Wall Street stockbroker. Alas, the Kirbys are not as easily convinced about the match, and they be come completely opposed to the marriage after a visit to the Sycamore home goes awry. With this parental disapproval, the lovebirds split.

The lead roles are both filled by freshman actors, with Lauren Purlee (9) as Alice and Derek Gulley (9) as Tony. These two young performers are not alone one the stage, with eight of the 18 cast members making their Homestead theater debut. In some cases, more experienced cast members may have been a better choice for some of the roles. However, looking beyond some weak performances, the play as a whole is a success.

This change from an older cast to a younger one may have been an attempt at mixing things up in the theater department, but the choice of play could have made a greater impression. "You Can't Take It With You" falls into the same category of romantic-comedy as Homestead's two previous musicals "The Pajama Game" and "Crazy For You."

In spite of these minor flaws, the cast still did a superb job all in all. The exposition in the first act was slow at times, but as the play progressed, the cast became more comfortable in the second and third acts.

One reason for the pick up during the second half is the introduction of new characters that provide comic relief. Friend of the Sycamores, actress Gay Wellington (Sydney Norwalk, 9) shows up to the house intoxicated, eventually passing out in the living room and causing a scene when the Kirbys arrive.

By far, the most humorous character is Mr. Kolenkhov, who is of Russian decent and speaks with a thick accent. Kolenkhov is portrayed by Nate Ferrise (12) and makes his living as a ballet instructor for a friend of the Sycamores. Having idiosyncrasies of his own, Kolenkhov is unconcerned with normal American customs, and is readily accepted by the Sycamores. Although the personality of Kolenkhov is quite unusual, Ferrise plays the part perfectly.

To complete the comedy, a short cameo is made by both student deans Jeff Kintz and Tom Rhoades. Not much acting is needed on their part as they are both cast as police officers.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Tonight and Saturday night, 7:30 p.m.

FALL PLAY CONTINUED FROM 1A

personalities, it is the love that the Sycamore family has for one another that really sets them apart. When daughter Alice (Lauren Purlee (9)) falls in love with Tony (Derek Gulley (9)), a 'normal' man from her work, she is embarrassed of her crazy family. Even so, when the Sycamores are compared to Tony's family, their love for one another really shines through, ironically portraying them as the ideal family.

"The show is about values and what's really important in life," Malooley said.

While the show has fewer lead roles than many plays, some of the major roles include other Sycamore family members. The mother, Penny (Molly Zweig (10)), the father, Paul (Sahand Emamian (12)), the eccentric sister, Essie (Eliza Smith (10)) and the Grandpa (David Ramsey (12)), all have unique idiosyncrasies that make them fit perfectly into the family.

To put on a production of this caliber, the cast has been rehearsing diligently for the past six weeks to make the play as near perfect as possible. Although memorizing lines has posed as a struggle, Malooley and the rest of the cast have faith that they will pull it off.

"It takes a lot of time for practices," Smith said. "We [had] practice everyday from after school until our director lets us go."

Ashley Evans (11) plays Rheba, the Sycamore family's southern maid, and has been putting a great deal of effort into her role as well.

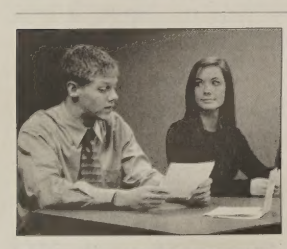
"To prepare, I look over my lines almost every night to make sure I have them memorized exactly as they are in the script. Mrs. Malooley's strict on that," Evans said. "I also have to practice a southern accent, which is hard at times, especially since I am definitely not from the south."

While impersonating a family onstage, the cast has become rather close themselves, as they have been working together for so long.

"I think by having a small cast, we feel more like an actual family," Evans said.

In the process of preparation, cast members learned more than just their lines. Because several of the cast members are underclassmen performing in their first high school show, they feel as though they have acquired much experience.

"I have learned that I can branch out more, and find something that I really like to do." Smith said.



PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Top to Bottom: Justin Hoffman (12) reads his excerpt from the Unit II prepared speech at the district competition. Nicole Szoko (12) listens as Clark Trexler (12) responds during the six-minute questioning period.

LEGAL CONTINUED FROM 1A

student in We the People is learning to think on their feet about complex issues," Potter said. "In We the People you have to know the material and be able to not only form opinions but back them up with facts and examples."

The six-minute period of questioning by the panel of judges seems to be the most stressful part for most students.

"I thought [our team] did pretty well," Tarun Jain (12) said. "Their responses were impressive considering how much pressure was involved."

The difficulty of this questioning comes from the expansive amount of material students are expected to know, understand and explain.

"There is so much info that the judges can ask you about," Joey DeRosa (11) said.

Although this year's district victory is undoubtedly worthy of celebration, Homestead's We the People classes have become rather familiar with success due to their highly qualified teams and their experienced instructor.

"This year was our 12th consecutive win in the We the People district competition," Potter said. "I became the instructor for We the People after I was asked to judge a competition in 1996. After seeing the competition, I felt that Homestead could be successful and it was a great program. I proposed the program to the administration and got their support. In the summer of 1997, I attended a weeklong seminar at IU to learn how to set up the program and how to teach the material. In 1997, we competed for the first time, winning the district competition and finishing third in the state competition."

Despite their district victory over Fairfield, which finished in 2nd, and Northrop, which placed 3rd, Homestead's We the People team is busy preparing for their next competition. On Dec. 15, they will participate in the statewide competition against 12 other schools.

"The Indiana State Competition is one of the toughest state competitions in the nation," Potter said. "In our 11 previous state competitions, we have finished as high as 3rd to as low as 10th out of the 12 teams in the competition. To win state it will take many hours of preparation and a great performance at the competition."

Anticipating tougher competition at the state level, team members prepare themselves to work diligently while keeping confidence levels high.

"I don't really want to predict too much now, but as long as we come up with good responses for the follow up questions, we'll be fine," Jain said.

Regardless of how the We the People team performs at state, their district victory is certainly significant, continuing the legacy of excellence.

NHS CONTINUED FROM 1A

ing and community service, one of which must be spent volunteer tutoring in the library before or after school," Elizabeth Funk (12), NHS board member, said.

Though volunteering is indeed mandatory, the specifics are open to a member's interpretation.

"[We usually volunteer at] PBS's pledge drive and knit chemo caps for children," Nazari said. "NHS runs a coffee house every year and many get their hours from that, but usually the community service hours are up to the members and how they want to get them."

While NHS lasts for the duration of the school year, the induction ceremony commences the organization's season.

"[The induction] brings all of the members together and officially adds new juniors," Funk said. "There is a candle ceremony and a pledge that hold a lot of symbolism and tradition for NHS, and each new member also receives a key."

Though NHS may seem rather exclusive, a considerable number of students are members, working behind the scenes to help out around school while maintaining exemplary grades.

"There are around 93 juniors, 84 seniors from last year and four new seniors this year," Nazari said. "The numbers have been consistent; nothing has really changed."

More a mere display of academic excellence, NHS allows its members a sublime opportunity of socialization.

"The NHS meetings are a fun way to meet with friends and club members," Funk said. "NHS induction is probably the most fun meeting and the most celebratory."

"The ceremony allows all of the NHS members to get to know each other, and each member can say the pledge of NHS," Brett Ballard (12), board member, said.

A bonding experience, the meetings help students keep in touch while managing busy schedules, all the while reminding them of their responsibilities as members of such a prestigious group.

"I really like how all of us get along, and it feels that we are actually doing something to help people out," Nazari said. "Our meetings are short, and we don't take much of people's time. It's very straightforward, yet accomplishes a lot."

After the successful induction ceremony, all portents point to a successful, scholarly year.

The REAL Question of the Week:

Will you advertise with us?

(260)431-2261

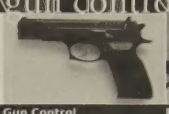
thespartana@gmail.com

OPINION

students respond to recent article, gun control triggers arguments, 3a

page 3a
issue 6 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Letters to the Editor


Gun Control

Backpacks

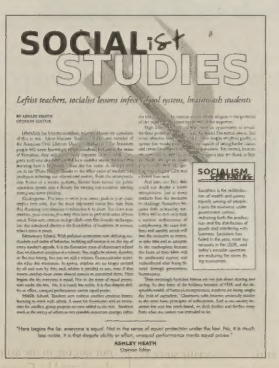
Friday, November 21, 2008

LETTER TO THE *editor*

Four students respond to recent Socialist Studies editorial

In today's society, the question of what is and is not socialist is common place in conservative areas. To clarify the definitions of the words "liberalism" and "socialism", one should look them up in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Liberalism is defined as a "political philosophy based on belief in progress, the essential goodness of human race, and the autonomy of the individual and standing for the protection of political and civil liberties." Socialism means "any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods." By simply looking at these definitions, one can recognize that these are completely different ideals. Collectivism works against individualism which makes the argument of liberals being socialist a contradiction of both beliefs.

Education is the foundation of an individual's ideal and, depending on what one does with it, determines the path of one's life. It as been argued that children are being taught the foundations of socialism, but this is not so. Simply because cooperation and sharing is being taught in schools does not mean that children will grow up to become Lenin. This nation was build by those who believed that all men were created equal and that working together and sharing the burden of fighting against the cranny of Britain could create a free nation that would be governed by the will of the people. Checks and balance with in the three parts of American government utilizes teamwork. If what the president wants does not agree with the desires of Congress, then nothing would ever be accomplished. Part of teamwork is listening to the will of everyone within a group. By being divided in a group, whether it is because of disagreements or laziness, a project will get a bad grade. This brings another great American ideal: divided we fail. Teamwork, sharing, and equality are not the building blocks of socialism, but the building blocks of our society.


SOCIAList STUDIES

Leftist teachers, socialist lessons infect school systems, brainwash students

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

SOCIALISM SCHMOOZE

In Issue 5, *The Spartana* published an opinion article by Ashley Heath titled Socialist Studies detailing the presence of socialist elements in public education.

The idea of aiding those who are less fortunate than others is considered to be socialist. One should not question the socialist nature of aiding Americans in need. Such as fiscally, but question, again, what this nation stands for. The government is meant to listen to the will of the people and to take care of its citizens. By neglecting the issues that the common American has, the government would not be doing its job, which is to help the people. Services provided by the government, such as universal healthcare, are in no way socialist. Socialist governments control the acquisition, production, and use of goods in industries. Socialism is government control over the economy, not regulation, and services provided by a government are simply services. The belief that a citizen of this nation is supposed to be devoted, loyal, and love the country until his dying day is considered the only way that someone can be a patriot. An American has to sacrifice his money, his life, his home for his country. What is so wrong with the country giving back to its devoted citizens by taking care of them when they are sick and down?

Another topic which needs to be brought up is respect. People of opposing political views of lifestyles frequently insult each other. Simply because someone disagrees with another person's beliefs does not give him the right to insult the entire group of people that he has the disagreement with. Acting on prejudice and being rude to other should never be tolerated. Disrespecting and being cruel to another American citizen who is less fortunate is not patriotic, it is cruel and unjust. America never tolerates when another nation kicks its downtrodden; instead, America steps in and aids those in need regardless of where in the world this occurs. This country is filled with all kinds of people of different backgrounds, beliefs, and lifestyles. Agree to disagree, help each other, and love this nation together.

Jocelyn Craig (12) and Alex Peterson (12)

Hi. I'd just like to congratulate the author of your recent piece, Socialist Studies. It was written incredibly well. I haven't laughed so hard for a long time. There should be more satirical stories written in our school paper. I laughed out loud at the part about sharing goldfish! Thank you again for brightening my day, and you have a career in comedic writing ahead of you.

Eric Blair (9)

As an "Opinion Editor" you should stick with what your title demands and write only of your own opinions. In the "socialist studies" article of the November 10th edition of the school paper, Ashley Heath does not support an opinion, rather she bashes all liberals in calling them socialists. Labeling a fellow student as "dumb or lazy (or both)" only because they don't take Advanced Placement courses is ridiculous. If a non-AP student gets a higher GPA than poor Ashley than so be it. Maybe she should have put forth more effort to get a better grade. Just because a class isn't AP doesn't mean you just get an A+ without working for it. As for the "Associate" Opinion Editor, Yogesh Jonna, your "Obama's Second-in-command" article is entirely contradicting itself. You complain of slanted news coverage, but as your article clearly states that imposing a Fairness Doctrine is a violation of the First Amendment Rights given to all Americans. The First Amendment allows the media to support whomever they choose, so if the media chose to elect now President-Elect Barack Obama, it is perfectly acceptable. You say "If I was an undecided voter and I relied on the media to decide, that I too would mistakenly vote for Obama." The fact is that most of America relies on media to get information to make their own personal decision. Obama happened to be the better of the two sub-par candidates, and the media recognized it and supported the better candidate. Sorry your candidate didn't win the election, but don't resort to petty excuses to make up for the Republicans' inability to come up with a capable candidate. To sum things up, know your job as "Opinion" Editors and make opinions, not statements.

Andrew Sims (12)

Ed Board questions new administrative proposal to eliminate backpacks

For seniors, this semester determines the final judgment of class rank, the final grades that will affect our college applications and the final real semester of our high school career. In the past few weeks the administration recognized the presence of seniors, and asked us for our opinions on the future of our school. Among the issues that were brought up in the class meetings, one that had sparked the interest of numerous seniors, even those who couldn't care less about the classes after us, was the removal of book bags from the hallways. The issue evoked the same response from the editors as it did at the meeting: disapproval.

Not allowing students to carry around materials in their book bags has been seen as a possible solution to help reduce the traffic in our growing school. However, it seems to us that this policy will have no bearing on its proposed benefit. Book bags take up a lot of space in the hallways and in classrooms, but they add to the depth of students, not the width. This somewhat radical policy with unsupported benefits, seems too a risky a measure to withstand the harm that could come by it. As much as we all dislike the freshman who swings around a book bag twice his size while turning around a corner, most of us would rather cope with that problem than go to our lockers in between every period.

One of the main problems with having a no book bag policy is that the physical size of our school is too large for many students to get to their next class with only six minutes to get to their locker and then to class during every passing period. If passing periods are extended to account for a no book bag policy, the already short 47 minute classes would be cut shorter, and our academic standards would be put at risk.

This idea has not been approved and may never get put into action, but it is frightening to consider the trend that school policies have led to in the past couple years. Budget cuts have created additional fees and strained numerous programs that had once made our school unique. Now, policies like prohibiting back packs in the hallway are being considered; policies like this do nothing to progress our school academically, which is a fundamental goal of the school. It seems as though we are making changes just to make changes.

LEFT AND WRITE | Gun Control vs. Second Amendment Rights

Gun control mitigates violent crime rate

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Guns don't kill people, people kill people- or so the adage goes. In reality, guns certainly play a role in furthering the process. If citizens could not buy rifles from sports stores and Texans were not permitted to carry concealed weapons, America's murder tally would decrease. Guns are not a problem in the hands of responsible citizens, but often, an irresponsible person acquires them, and that's when we get the back alley killings seen on the six o'clock news. Serial killers who don't kill with guns are far and few between-how many serial knifings and baseball bat massacres come down the wire? Absolutely none. Statistics show that the majority of homicides are crimes of passion, not premeditated felonies. Perhaps, if that gun was not there for the infuriated civilian to pick up, fewer murders would occur. Guns themselves are not negative, but red tape should be implemented to keep them from the wrong people.

Real danger is gun laws, not weapons

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

Guns allow you to protect your inalienable right to life no matter your gender, strength or skill. Even if you do not wish to carry a gun, the possibility that you could be serves to inhibit criminals. Guns do prevent crime. In 1999, the Wall Street Journal reported that, "crimes are stopped with guns about five times as frequently as crimes are committed with guns." The founders of American government recognized this simple logic. Thomas Jefferson once said, "laws that forbid the carrying of arms…disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes;... they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides." What proponents of gun control really want is a world without violence. The world is and always will be violent; that is inevitable. What can be avoided is being unprepared and naïve to this truth. Deny men the right to bear arms and you in effect encourage crime.

The SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL
HALEY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR
ANDREW WEISS

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
ZACH VESSELS

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
JOE HANAUER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
MOLLY ZWEIG

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

students combine Thanksgiving traditions with own customs, 5a

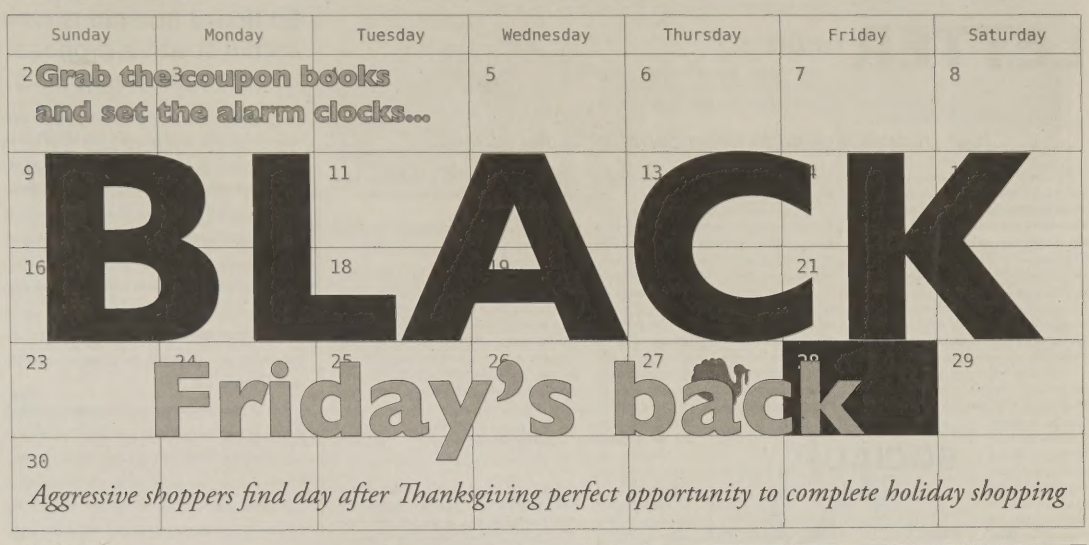
page 4a
issue 6 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Alternative Thanksgiving

Black Friday

Miss Indiana

Friday, November 21, 2008



Aggressive shoppers find day after Thanksgiving perfect opportunity to complete holiday shopping

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Ridiculously long lines, savage customers and brutal competition for highly coveted items don't stop high school students from waking up without the sun on Black Friday to purchase items on their wish lists at irregularly low prices.

The thrill of the buy drives customers out of their beds at times when most students are deeply lost in sleep. Depending on the dedication of the buyer, customers get up to shop between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.

"[My family] gets up at around 3 a.m. and are at the first store we want to shop at by 4 in the morning, although most stores open at around 5 a.m.," Claire Burkett (10) said. "To get the best deals you have to wait for the store to open with hundreds of other eager shoppers."

Black Friday is not only a day to get some Christmas shopping done, but is also a family tradition for students who enjoy finding the best deals. Some have been participating in the frenzy since they were young.

"The first store I have ever been in for Black Friday shopping was Walmart," Rachel Shinn (10) said. "I was eight years old and my mom made me stand in the clothing department by myself because she thought the rush of people was too intense for me."

Being a Black Friday fanatic, Shinn has experienced her share of catastrophes as crazed customers go to any extremes in order to win over the cheap items they want.

"One year, I was at Best Buy and my brother and sister started something that resembles a riot. Last year, my mother grabbed a digital camera half an hour before they were supposed to be released and that caused a stampede," Shinn said. "I've seen people who sit inside the Walmart stores all night and sleep on a camp chair they took from the camping department. People line up behind us as we surround the item we want."

Students like Julianne Szostak (11) take advantage of Black Friday, not by saving money and shopping for good deals, but instead by gaining profits by cleverly appealing to other customer's competitive shopping habits.

"I go [to a store] with four or five people when it's extremely early, before everyone else gets there, and get a really good spot in line," Szostak said. "Then, while some of the people I'm with stay in the spot, the others go and try to sell the spot to the rest of the people in the line."

Whether it's the large shopping centers like Glenbrook and Jefferson Pointe, or individual stores like Best Buy and Target that are being visited by customers who are hungry for deals, buyers never fail in creating a hectic environment. Yet, Black Friday is also about tradition and bringing families together for the hunt of the low prices.

"After hundreds of dollars spent on Black Friday, my mom and I go to the Krispy Kreme factory at Jefferson Pointe and pick up a dozen donuts," Shinn said. "We end up sitting on the couch and eating them all at six in the morning watching random shows."

MUST-BUYS FOR TEENS

BEST BUY	
Canon PowerShot SD790IS 10MP Camera	$199.99
eMachines Desktop with 19" Monitor & Printer	$299.96
PNY 2GB microSD Memory Card	$7.99
DVDs	$4.99 and up
TARGET	
Garmin nuvi 200W GPS Navigation System	$119.99
George Foreman Super Jumbo Indoor Grill	$30.00
8GB iPod nano with free $15 Gift Card	$145.00
STAPLES	
Omnitech 7" Digital Picture Frame	$39.99
KOHL'S	
Levi Jeans	$31.99
All athletic shoes	40-50% off
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS	
TopFlite XL3000 15-Pack of Golf Balls	$5.00
Nike Open Field Football	$14.98
Power Play Table Tennis Table	$199.98

Hospitality Club prepares dinner at IPFW Dinner Series, continues to provide culinary aid to many

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
LIFE EDITOR

With the sweet aroma of pumpkin bread and roasted chicken, the Homestead Hospitality Club started the winter season off right with their annual Dinner Series. Showing off their skills in the hospitality industry, the 21 club members worked alongside IPFW Dinner Series students to serve the 54 guests in attendance.

For the night to be successful, a lot of preparation was needed, with club meetings in advance and food preparation the night before the dinner. Club member Joanna Nguyen (10) was a server and a cook, as well as a key person in coordinating the event.

"Everything went smoothly, and this year we improved on cleaning up during the dinner so we didn't have to stay after," Nguyen said.

The Dinner Series is the club's main event, but meetings still continue throughout the year. Other activities include restaurant tours, chef demonstrations and trying to recreate recipes after school.

The club has been meeting for the last six years, and this year's number of paid members is the highest the club has ever seen.

"Hospitality club is for students interested in the hospitality industry," Denise Geller, club sponsor, said. "Members are interested in jobs in restaurants, hotel management, and tourism."

Geller has taught Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) for 34 years, 23 of which have been spent at Homestead. Club president Katie Farrell (12) has taken many of the FACS classes, and has been involved with the Hospitality Club all of her four years at Homestead.

"I've had a really strong interest in Culinary Arts since I was in middle school," Farrell said. "I'm still deciding between Culinary School and regular college. People always have to eat, so there will always be a demand for it."

While club members specifically learn skills in the hospitality field, some lessons they learn can be applied to everyday life. Math skills are used in altering recipes, and there is a great deal of teamwork in creating a meal. The most important skill used in the club is listening.

"You learn how to follow instructions when you make the recipes," Nguyen said. "And you learn to listen. [Mrs.. Geller] will make changes, and if you don't listen, it won't come out right."

Hospitality Club's Pumpkin Cheesecake

Crust:
1 3/4 cups of graham cracker crumbs
3 tablespoons light brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 stick melted, salted butter

Filling:
3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese at room temperature
1 (15-ounce) can pureed pumpkin
3 eggs plus 1 egg yolk
1/4 cup sour cream
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon fresh ground nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
2 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.

2. For crust: In a medium bowl, combine crumbs, sugar and cinnamon. Add melted butter. Press down flat into a 9-inch springform pan. Set aside.

3. For filling: Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add pumpkin puree, eggs, sour cream, sugar and spices. Add flour and vanilla. Beat together until well combined.

4. Pour into crust. Spread out evenly and place in oven for 1 hour. Remove from oven and let sit for 15 minutes. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours.

Looming parents bother teens

Helicopter parenting debated by both students, guardians

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
WRITER

Hovering over their children, some parents are sometimes excessively invested in their kids' lives, ready to swoop in to solve problems big or small. From doing homework to plotting out their child's academic future, these so-called helicopter parents enjoy inserting themselves in their child's life, hindering children from learning problem solving and critical thinking skills.

"When I was in seventh grade my mom had my entire high school [class schedule] planned," John, whose real name was wished to be left anonymous, said.

Other students are familiar with this feeling of parental domination in decisions they believe that they should make for themselves.

"My mom tries to control everything," Megan Didier (10) said. "[My parents] have me write down all the details for them when I go somewhere."

Child behavior experts and psychologists agree helicopter parenting has been fueled by the widespread usage of cell phones, which allows parents to constantly be in contact with their kids. This constant contact has given cell phones the title of the world's longest umbilical cord.

"I have to call [my parents] every time I arrive or leave a friend's house," John said.

Although Didier and John claim they do not appreciate all of their parents' involvement in their lives, some feel that a close relationship with his or her parents is a positive influence.

"I'm very close with my mom," Alex Tsiguloss (10) said. "She's my best friend and I talk to her about everything."

According to Tsiguloss, even though she and her parents are close, she is glad they respect her space and try not to get too involved.

"There's definitely a fine line, but [my parents] do a good job of staying out of my business," Tsiguloss said.

Along with Tsiguloss, Didier said she knows that her mother's helicopter-like behavior is for her own good, even if it annoys her.

"My mom just wants me to stay out of trouble," Didier said. "She does this because she cares."

Like helicopters that cannot fly without enough air, some students feel like their parents are restricting them.

"It feels like [my mom] is stepping in where she shouldn't be," Didier said. "[My parents] don't give me enough space and respect."

On the other hand, some parents give their kids more space than they would like.

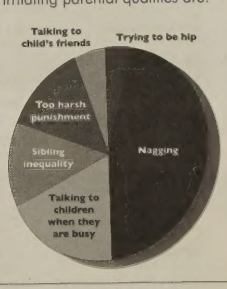
"My mom is a doctor and works 12 hours a day," Omar Sohail (10) said. "She sometimes works on Saturdays, too."

While Sohail's parents are less involved in his life than some helicopter parents tend to be, Tsiguloss feels a balance between being incredibly invested and uninvolved is best.

"Parents should be somewhat involved," Tsiguloss said. "They're more experienced than their kids and they should gradually start moving back so their kids can learn."

ANNOYING PARENTAL HABITS

According to students, the most irritating parental qualities are:



Pausing for the memories, one photograph at a time

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

I love taking pictures. I've always had a fascination with how a camera can so accurately capture the detail and emotion of our lives in the click of a button. Unfortunately, however, I rarely find the time to sit down and look at my photos more than once before storing them haphazardly in an old shoebox under my bed.

In a way, good pictures are like good memories. They always seem to evoke feelings and images of moments long forgotten, resurrecting the ghosts of our past. It's funny how memory works. I frequently catch my mind wandering back to the familiar smell of someone's house or a random quote I heard during a speech--small glimpses of life that seem to have no logical significance.

Recently, I found myself thinking about a book I read in Mr. Cavacini's freshman English class, The Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis. Although I don't recall particularly liking the book, one quote has stuck with me and continues to haunt my thoughts. In one scene, Lewis explains that an enjoyable experience is not complete until it is reflected upon, stating, "A pleasure is full grown only when it is remembered." Therefore, memory completes the cycle of our understanding and our appreciation of all the times in life that never necessarily seemed significant when they occurred. Upon recollection, something special is added to our life experiences, infinitely increasing their importance.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it becomes ironically evident to me why I have subconsciously remembered these words for so long. Distracted in pursuit of plans and preparations, our society neglects to give thanks where it is due, scarcely finding time to reflect upon our experiences and those who have made them worthwhile.

Theoretically, Christmas is already here. From the displays in retail windows to the songs that grace radio stations, evidence of the upcoming holiday is everywhere. However, lost in the midst of pre-Christmas chaos is a holiday worthy of more attention than it receives. Thanksgiving is a holiday of true value, recognizing the people who enrich our experiences and make life worth living.

In many ways, our lives are like pictures, containing so many precious moments that we never want to forget, yet we rarely take the time to properly remember. Instead, we file our dear memories in places that work around our busy schedules, like shoeboxes under our beds, perhaps, so they stay out of our way. However, it is on rare occasions like Thanksgiving that we are given the much needed opportunity to call forth the ghosts of our past, juxtaposing them in the reality of our present and wrinkling the cycle of time.

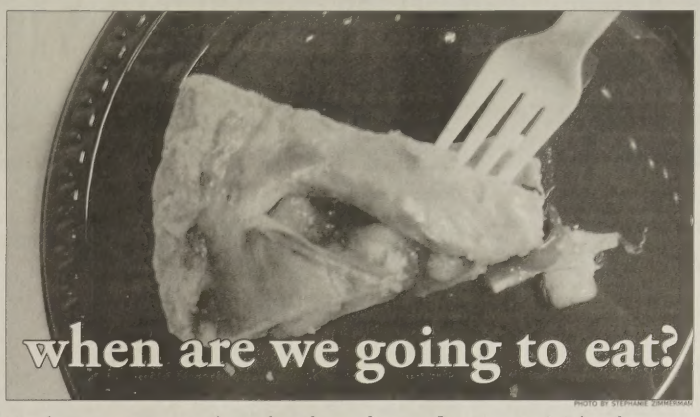


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE THEREMSAK

Student immigrants share family traditions for America's Thanksgiving

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

As summer turns to fall, many Americans look forward to the fourth Thursday of November. Thanksgiving has morphed from its original feast of thanks in 1621 to watching the Macy Day Parade and football games. But Thanksgiving is still a time where families come together and the first sparkles of holiday cheer begin to show.

Thanksgiving is the way we welcome the holiday season, but many do not realize that Thanksgiving is uniquely an American holiday. While the majority of Homestead students celebrate with turkey and stuffing on Thanksgiving, immigrants to the United States have their own individual traditions.

Wenting Shen (11) moved to America from Shanghai, China when she was twelve, and had no family living in her new country. Her family has embraced Thanksgiving and celebrates it in the conventional way.

"We have a turkey and normal Thanksgiving food," Shen said. For the Shen family, Thanksgiving is a time when family can gather together, similar to the Chinese New Year.

Not all immigrants celebrate Thanksgiving with the traditional turkey and cranberry sauce. The Ortega family is from Chihuahua, Mexico, and has their own traditions for the holiday.

"We usually just take the day off," Max Ortega (9) said. "We don't celebrate it, but it's a great tradition."

A parallel can be drawn between the American Thanksgiving and the Mexican Day of the Dead.

"The Day of the Dead is a day to give thanks and pray for your ancestors" Ortega said.

This two day celebration is on November first and second, known also as All Saints Day, or All Souls Day. The first of November is typically used to remember deceased children and infants, who are also called "angelitos," or "little angels." The second of November is typically used to remember deceased adults.

Families often construct alters for the Day of the Dead in honor of the deceased. Decorations for the alters often include favorite foods and drinks of the deceased, accompanied by a picture.

Alyssa Campbell (10) moved to America when she was thirteen. Today, her family participates in the conventional Thanksgiving traditions, but in Russia she did something quite different. Around the same time of the American Thanksgiving, Campbell would write notes to people who were close or important to her. These notes were her way of giving thanks to people that were important in her life.

Staying true to her heritage, Campbell adds a Russian twist to the Thanksgiving festivities by occasionally baking bread, called Baska. Baska is made from eleven ingredients, including butter, eggs and potatoes and then frosted with a white icing. The bread has been described as being a light, frosted Easter bread.

For Russia, Easter is a much larger holiday than either Christmas or Thanksgiving is in America. Families spend weeks preparing for Easter, cooking huge amounts of food before the festivities. Traditional foods include those that were forbidden during the forty days of past before the holiday.

Whether it is in the traditional way of mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie, or celebrating with a cultural twist, Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate and usher in the upcoming holiday season.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Brittany Hood (11) and Rohma Siddiqui (12) both placed in the top ten at the Miss Indiana Teen USA pageant, which took place Halloween weekend.

Miss Indiana Teen USA contestants speak out about beauty competition

Spartana: How many pageants have you competed in, and when did you first begin your pageantry career?

Hood: I have actually only competed in a total of two pageants. My first taste of pageantry was last year at Miss Indiana Teen USA 2008, where I placed fourth runner-up. I went into my first pageant just to have fun, but I came out with a newfound passion. I then went on to compete in Miss Indiana Teen USA 2009 again this year. Miss USA is the only organization I have competed for thus far.

Siddiqui: Miss Indiana Teen USA is the only organization I have competed in so far. Last year was my first time competing, and this year was my second year in the Miss Indiana Teen USA division. I was Miss Photogenic and placed in the Top 10.

Spartana: How long does it take to prepare for a pageant, and what do you have to do to prepare?

Hood: Every pageant girl has her own way of preparing for a pageant. You have to select your evening gown, competition swimsuit and interview outfit. The search for these three pieces can take months, and your choices are crucial. The swimsuit competition is actually a physical fitness competition, so working out should be in the preparation process as well. [Siddiqui] and I trained together for about two months prior to the pageant weekend. Truthfully, the biggest part of preparing for the pageant for me, is the mental preparation. You have to walk to runway with confidence, and in the interview you have to show the judges that you are ready for the job.

Siddiqui: It took me about three months to prepare for the pageant. There is a lot of paperwork involved and contestants are also encouraged to find sponsors, if they can. You have to be in good shape for the competition as well. I started training regularly about three months before pageant weekend. [Hood] and I would train together sometimes to keep each other motivated. Along with basic wardrobe needs, such as finding an evening gown, swimsuit and interview outfit, there are also little details a contestant has to worry about, like hair and make up. Other than that, it was all about practice, practice and more practice. I'm glad I worked very hard to prepare because it gave me more confidence and made pageant weekend a lot easier.

Spartana: Are you expected to provide yourself with everything needed for the pageant, or are sponsors or scholarships available to help with the fees?

Siddiqui: Contestants are encouraged to get as many sponsors as they can to help them with their sponsorship fee and wardrobe. If they are not able to get any sponsors, then they are responsible for their own expenses. I was able to get a few sponsors and my parents helped me with the rest of the expenses. Southwest Hair and Day Spa, Star Nails, and SRS Photography were my sponsors.

> "I didn't know anyone in pageantry and I had no idea what I was doing, but I made a ton of friends and sure had fun doing it!"
>
> **BRITTANY HOOD (11)**
> State runner-up

Spartana: Why did you decide to start competing in pageants?

Hood: I started competing in pageants just for the experience. I didn't know anyone in pageantry and I had no idea what I was doing, but I made a ton of friends and sure had fun doing it!

Siddiqui: Modeling has always been my main focus, but pageantry intrigued me because it's more competitive so I decided to give it a try. I'm very glad that I did because pageantry has been a very positive thing for me. It's made me more confident, determined and competitive.

Spartana: What does your job of runner-up entail?

Hood: My job as first runner-up is a lot like the job of a Vice President; if the current titleholder has her title taken away, or cannot fulfill her duties for some reason, then I will receive the title.

Spartana: What is the set-up and itinerary of the Miss Indiana Teen USA pageant?

Hood: Friday: Judges preview. This is basically just for the judges to get their first look at the competitors. No talking, just walking and posing. Next is the photo-shoot. Each girl has a shoot in her evening gown, swimsuit and interview outfit.

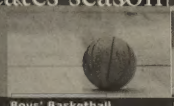
Saturday: Personal interview. There are two panels of judges and you spend about five minutes with each panel, just letting them get to know you and sharing your views on certain topics. Next is the swimsuit competition. This is the first stage of the actual competition. This is when you really appreciate all those crunches you did, and friends like [Siddiqui] telling you to do 20 more. Then comes the evening gown competition--the most elegant and reserved competition.

Sunday: Final show! Top ten are called and we compete in the same categories as a group of ten. Judges then vote on the top five. Top five then have the on stage interview/impromptu questions. Then they call the runners up, starting with fourth and working their way up to first. Being left in the top two, I stood in the middle of the stage, heart racing, holding hands with the only other girl left. The winner is then announced, and photos are taken for the website and magazines.

SPORTS

boys' basketball dedicates season to teammate Rodney Thompson, 8a

page 6a
issue 6 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814


Boys' Basketball

McKenzie Bagan in MN

Mr. Schenkel

Strong team chemistry drives Lady Spartans

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

The football field is empty, the cross country paths are vacant and the soccer pitch is frosted over. That can only mean one thing: it is basketball season, and the Lady Spartan varsity basketball team started off their season with a bang.

Jena Hamrick (10) acquired 22 points for the team, and Rachael Kruse (12) added 16 to the score as the girls opened their season with a 67-33 win last Friday night against Harding.

"We had a great first game. We played great defense and for the most part we executed our offensive plays very well," Kruse said.

At the beginning of the season, Kendra Dyson (11), a key player during last year's season, tore her ACL. Unfortunately, she will not be able to play in any of the games this year.

"Not having Kendra being able to play is a great loss for our team, but I feel we have younger players who are stepping up to fill her position and talent this year," Kruse said. "As sad as we are not having her play, I think we, as a team, will be able to step it up and get the job done."

One of those important, young and new additions to this year's squad is Carmen Lucille (9), the only freshman on the varsity team. Lucille says she enjoys playing with the experienced team.

"I love playing on varsity. It is a lot to take in at first, but it's a great feeling and it is extremely fun," Lucille said. "My teammates are so great. They all have been nice and welcoming to me and I really thank them for that."

Because of their first big win this season and the new additions to the team, the girls are confident and optimistic about the rest of their schedule.

"I think the season is going to be a success this year. We have a lot of very athletic players. I feel that we have a very good chance at winning conference, and hopefully winning sectionals," Kruse said.

Team chemistry is also a huge factor in the girls' optimism for the rest of the season. They are able to work well with each other and perform as a unit, rather than individual players, on the court.

"Our team chemistry is great. We all get along very well and always have a good time together on, as well as off, the court," Kruse said.

The upperclassman leadership is another major factor in the reason the chemistry of the team is so great.

"A lot of upperclassmen help everyone out with knowing where to be on plays and things like that. I think it really helps with our team's chemistry," Lucille said.

With awesome team chemistry and a well put together team, the girls on the varsity basketball team cannot wait for the rest of their season.

"We are going to have a great season this year," Kruse said. "Everyone needs to come out to support us at our games."

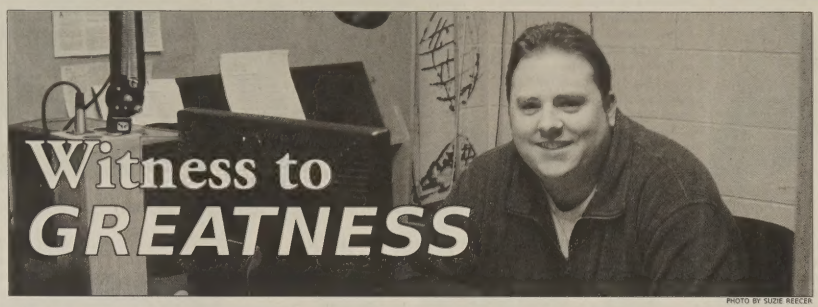


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Witness to GREATNESS

Broadcasting teacher Mr. Schenkel recalls favorite Spartan sports memories

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

He has seen 42 football wins, 49 boys basketball wins, and 95 baseball wins. Adam Schenkel, Homestead's radio and TV director, has been a part of the Homestead radio program for the last five years, which entails overseeing the WCYT sports broadcasting program. Being over the shoulder of Homestead students during the games, he sees all the action of the games. Although he does help on the radio, he spends most of his time during the broadcasts being a spectator. The Spartana sat down with Schenkel to talk about his favorite moments in Spartan athletics during his tenure.

Q: What are your favorite sports memories at Homestead?

A: 1) The easiest ones to remember are when a team does well. I think it would be two years ago for football. Being undefeated going up against Norwell and the big tailgate that we had and then seeing the football stadium sold out and rocking. Then eventually winning sectionals beating Snider, 21-16.

2) Boy's basketball, three years ago, Grant Leiendecker's senior year. That sectional was so loaded with Division I talent, like Ryan Sims (Bowling Green), Marques Johnson (Georgia State, originally with Tennessee), Leiendecker (Butler), Chris Kramer (Purdue), and Eshaunte Jones (Nebraska). Getting to the semi-finals of that sectional and the atmosphere of Northrop's arena was so intense.

3) Baseball, just last year watching that team make their run to the state title game. I was also the P.A. announcer for all home games and began following the team on the road, which made me feel a little bit closer to the team than in previous years. The expectations at the beginning of the season were that we could battle for a state title, but after the little hiccup mid-season, that raised the doubt for how far we could go. It was great to see that team turn it around and do something I knew they were capable of from day one, not to mention winning all of those games away from home.

Only being at the school five years, he has still seen some of the most memorable moments in Homestead sports history. Schenkel has the help of a few students during the broadcasts as well, including Andrew Sims (12), Justin Hoffman (12), and Adam Labas (10).

> "Even though [broadcasting] is a bunch of work, it pays off when you hear compliments from people saying you did a good job."
> **ADAM SCHENKEL**
> Broadcasting Teacher

"Getting prepared, writing things down during the game, talking during the game, and then making sure everything is cleaned up and taken care of afterwards, sports broadcasting is a lot of work," Hoffman said. "Even though [broadcasting] is a bunch of work, it pays off when you hear compliments from people saying you did a good job."

Schenkel knows what a good sports game is all about. Being an Indiana University alum, he has seen his fair share in Bloomington. At Homestead he has seen just as many, from football in the fall to baseball in the spring. Memorable moments are one of the reasons why he loves his job.

"Being in charge of sports broadcasts is a lot of work and time away from home, some weeks I work over 70 hours, but all of the coaches have been very supportive of the radio program, which makes it easy to work these games," Schenkel said. "I love high school sports and getting to watch these teams up close and seeing some big time moments makes it all worth it."

GREATEST moment

1. Ryan Wright's go-ahead three-run home run vs. Crown Point.
2. Homestead defense's goal line stand in the final seconds vs. Snider.
3. Watching Homestead play for a state title in beautiful Victory Field in downtown Indianapolis.

GREATEST team

1. Homestead Baseball '08
2. Homestead Football '06
3. Homestead Football '07

GREATEST game

1. Homestead vs. Snider (2006 Football Sectional Championship)
2. Homestead vs. Crown Point (2008 Baseball Semi-State Championship)
3. Homestead vs. Jay County (2008 Baseball Sectional Championship)

42 FOOTBALL WINS

95 BASEBALL WINS

49 BOYS BASKETBALL WINS

Qualifying swimmers compete in Minnesota Grand Prix

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

When it comes to the phrase "pre-season," most sports fans think of the NFL or the NBA's pre-season games. Not many would think that the sport of swimming has a pre-season too. However, last weekend, select members of the girls' and boys' varsity swim teams went on a trip to the Minnesota Grand Prix to compete against swimmers from all over the nation. Swimmers that participated were members of the Southwest Allen County (SWAC) swim team. The Minnesota Grand Prix lasted from Nov. 14-16 in Minneapolis, where an estimated 250 participants were involved.

Ten varsity swimmers, one middle school swimmer, one coach and one chaperone piled into a 15 passenger van to make the nine hour trip. Staying in what was described as a "huge" hotel, the members of the teams found themselves surrounded by teams that were also from Indiana.

Varsity swimmers that met the qualifications to enter the Grand Prix included Anderson Whipp (12), Nick Jones (12), Peter Rondot (12) and Blake Johnson (10), who represented the boys' team. The girls' team was represented by Kristen Kinzer (12), Mckenzie Bagan (12), Emily Keefer (12), Emeri Taivalkoski (11), Tori Bagan (10) and Mariah Hamil (9).

To participate in the Minnesota Grand Prix, swimmers had to have a certain qualifying time. With the qualification standards being difficult for those wishing to compete, the participants who made the cut made the meet competitive all around. The meet was so competitive, Ryan Lochte, a gold medalist in the 2008 Olympics, was competing. Not all the competitors were as nationally known as Lochte, but they provided difficult opposition as they came from colleges and high schools around the country.

"Seeing and swimming against some of the fastest people in the world gives the Homestead boys and girls something to aspire to be. It also gets us motivated to train," Whipp said.

At 9 a.m., preliminaries for each event began, running throughout the morning and early afternoon. If they qualified, swimmers would report for the finals, which would take place at 6 p.m. the same day. In between the preliminaries and finals, swimmers would go up to their rooms and hang out.

Although it was a club event, the Grand Prix was similar to a pre-season event because of the high level of competition. Swimming against the best swimmers in the nation helped prepare the boys' and girls' teams for the season.

"This meet is great for the beginning of the season because it shows us what hard work and consistency produce," Whipp said.

Kristen Kinzer knew this was a big event, and wanted to use it to her advantage.

"This meet prepares me for the varsity season because it's a great opportunity to compete against the best athletes outside of the state," Kinzer said. "We don't get that opportunity with high-school swimming. The people at this meet take swimming a lot more seriously."

Those that took advantage of the trip to Minnesota know the trip will help them remain motivated for their season by allowing them to swim against the best. By seeing the best in the nation, the swimmers know what they can look forward to with all their hard work. The varsity season starts on Dec. 2 against East Noble for both the boys' and girls' teams.

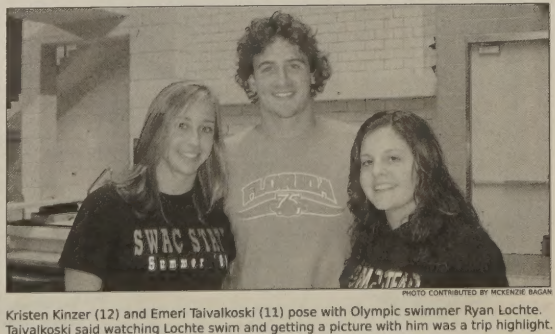


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MCKENZIE BAGAN

Kristen Kinzer (12) and Emeri Taivalkoski (11) pose with Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte. Taivalkoski said watching Lochte swim and getting a picture with him was a trip highlight.

The beginning of the end

Tomorrow kicks off my senior basketball season against Whitko in our annual scrimmage. About two weeks from now, the regular season will begin and the team will try to defend our conference title. Any regular person would think that I would be beyond excited to start my senior season. But I am not. Why? It is my senior season.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

Don't get me wrong; I love basketball and the camaraderie the game provides more than a lot of things in my life. I have been dribbling a basketball since saliva has been dribbling from my mouth. I know what to do in certain situations of the game and I can dunk like I always dreamed I would be able to when I was little.

But like I said, it is my senior season. That means one last year of donning the blue and gold, one last year of coming out of the tunnel to the booming sounds of the band, one last year of trampling on that stupid-looking Spartan painted on the court and one last year of throwing out the t-shirts to the student section. That means one last year of team dinners, one last year of bus rides and one last year of remembering and recording Doc's quotes, like when he said, "We will be sitting in my room five minutes from now talking about life after your final season."

As we go through high school, I think many of us take for granted the time we have left playing the games we love. We have grown up playing the games we love in our front yards, driveways and the empty lots across the street. We played in summer camps, YMCA leagues, and travel leagues to improve our skills in our respective sports.

We sat in our beds at night and dreamed about playing our sports forever. We thought about playing for the Chicago Bulls with Michael Jordan, the Indianapolis Colts with Peyton Manning, the New York Yankees with Derek Jeter and the U.S. Women's World Cup soccer team with Mia Hamm.

Yet, as we grow older, many of us don't develop physically into the athlete we always wanted to be. For me, I grew into a skinny, semi-fast white kid who can shoot pretty well instead of a strong, high-flying 6'11" slam dunk champion. The more birthday candles we blow out, the more we realize that not everyone will make it as a professional in the sport they love, and this realization hurts.

It doesn't hurt, however, until your senior season, when you realize that the year will be your last go-around unless you're one of the lucky few to play your sport in college. It is too early to tell if I will play basketball in college, but I'm not taking anything for granted. I know the start of this basketball season is inevitable, but I want to keep telling myself that there is something that I can do to delay the end.

The truth, though, is that it is going to end at some point, for all of us. When it does, we will lose a little something from our personality, but we have to move on and remember the good times we had with our teammates playing the sports we love. But, like I said, I'm not ready for it to end. These could be the fastest five minutes of my life.

FROM THE BOOTH

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

I have a small break from sports broadcasting until the beginning of December when boys' basketball starts. So why not talk about that since they are coming up? They won the NHC last year, tying with two other teams. They have been catching a lot of heat from the student body about how a co-champion isn't the same. Given it's not, still where is the applause for finishing at the top when they were picked to be basically last in the conference? It's just not right, but that is last year. This year they look to make another run at the title. Returning are two of three top scorers in Desmon Powers (11) and Chris Ray (12). Also players such as Jay Curry (11) and Mike Bradley (12) will help the team make that run. They had a big loss with the death of Rodney Thompson, more then we will ever know. But Sparty will win it for Rod, everyone can feel it. Prediction for the squad: outright champ in the NHC and a threat in the sectionals. They have the pieces, let's put them together.

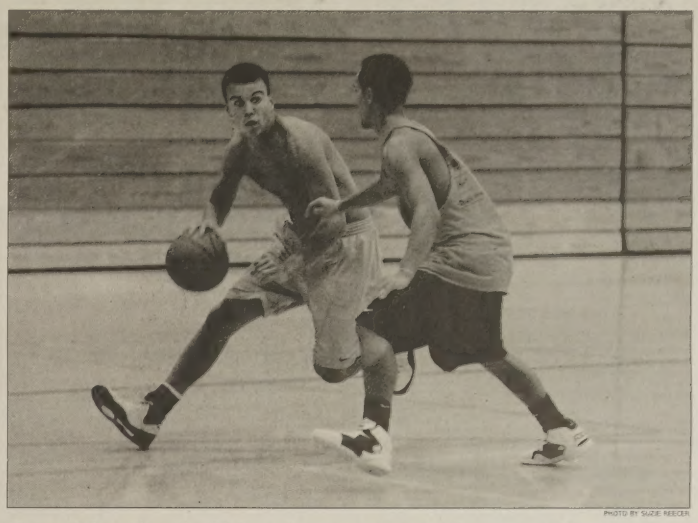


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Boys' basketball looks to repeat last year's success

Starting the season with several returning players, one remains missed

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

"Win for Rodney." That phrase is on the mind of every single player on the boys' varsity basketball team this season. Rodney Thompson (12), who was supposed to be a senior leader on the team this year, was involved in a fatal car accident on Oct. 17. The team now looks to only seniors Chris Ray (12) and Mike Bradley (12) to lead a team full of juniors, sophomores, and a freshman. However, the Spartans will not start the season negatively; the team is coming off a share of the conference championship from last year.

Last season, the team won the Northeast Hoosier Conference for the first time since 1999. The team returns the same core players: Ray, Bradley, Jay Curry (11) and Desmon Powers (11). Also returning are Evan Pyle (11), Andy Phillippe (11), Al Jennings (11) and Wes Ring (11). Evan Rhoades (10), Drew Sery (10) and Zach Terrell (9) add to the young team. Towards the end of last season, the team hit a hot streak by winning key conference games which not only helped them gain momentum and confidence, but a conference title.

> "Winning conference last year gives us a lot of motivation this season. We want to get that again and go further."
>
> **ANDY PHILLIPPE (11)**
> Basketball Player

"Winning conference last year gives us a lot of motivation this season," Phillippe said. "We want to get that again and go further."

The team will look to start the season tomorrow in a scrimmage against Whitko at 2 p.m. The regular season begins with three games that the Spartans lost last year, against Harding on Dec. 3, Wayne on Dec. 5, and South Side on Dec. 9.

"We are improving our defense and rebounding this season," Phillippe said. "We hope to get three early wins against the SAC."

With the home schedule alternating from year to year, the Spartans will play several conference teams that they lost to last year at home this season. The team will also have to travel to play against Bellmont and Norwell, which could be key games. Both the games against Carroll and DeKalb, the two teams with which the Spartans shared the conference title last year, will be played at home this year.

"We definitely want to win conference like last year," Curry said. "We have to beat our rivals East Noble and Carroll to have a shot."

With Thompson unable to play this season, the team is provided with extra motivation to win. His mother, Diveeta, has told the team simply to "go win state." The Spartans know that they will have to play one game at a time to reach that ultimate goal.

"We are going to dedicate this season to him," Curry said. "We are going to play the game for him and his family."

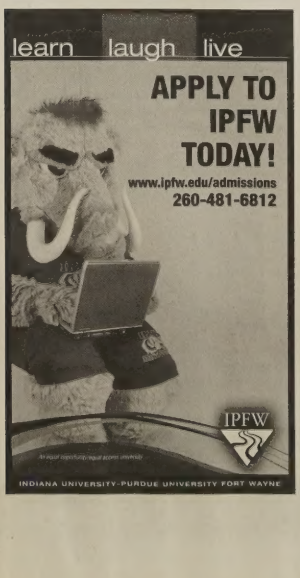
The season is already promising to be a very emotional one, due to the loss of Thompson with no one being able to fill void of his chemistry with the team. The first home game will be full of emotion, with the entire gym knowing who the team is missing. To honor Thompson, the team will wear patches on their travel gear and warm ups. While the team tries to win conference for a second consecutive season, they will have to overcome their youth and inexperience, all while not getting too emotional on the court. However, Ray and Bradley both know that there is still basketball to be played, and a conference championship to defend.

BOYS' BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

vs Whitko	Saturday, Nov. 22
@ Harding	Wednesday, Dec. 3
vs Wayne	Friday, Dec. 5
vs South Side	Tuesday, Dec. 9
@ Manchester	Saturday, Dec. 13
vs Carroll	Friday, Dec. 19
vs North Side	Tuesday, Dec. 23
@ Columbia City Tourney	Friday, Jan. 2
@ Concordia	Friday, Jan. 9
@ East Noble	Saturday, Jan. 10
vs Columbia City	Friday, Jan. 16
@ North Side	Tuesday, Jan. 20

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Top: Zach Terrell (9) looks to drive to the basket, defended by Andy Phillippe (11). Above: Phillippe looks to make a pass during a drill at practice.



Wrestling team looks to fill senior gaps

Team strives for sectional win after finishing second at last year's competition

BY ANDREW WEISS
ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR

If wrestlers were puzzle pieces, the varsity wrestling team's puzzle has some pieces to fill. Holes left by Justin Wight ('08), Andrew Fahlsing ('08) and Jason Simpson ('08) are ones that returning members will need sealed up.

"Anytime you have a strong senior class, they are hard to replace," Coach Randy Pursley said. "The young guys who wrestled against them should be able to fill in their roles [on the team this season]."

Last season the team, as a whole, placed second in sectionals behind New Haven and third in the conference. Returning wrestlers Andy Franklin (11), Bobby Natusch (12) and Brad Mills (10) all won sectional titles in their respective weight classes.

This year, the team has set their sights on not only beating New Haven and placing first in sectionals, but moving up in the strong NHC conference.

"The NHC is a tough conference to win. I think the NHC, as a whole, might be one of the toughest conferences in the state," Pursley said.

As for winning sectionals, the team may have their work cut out for them. Sectional host New Haven lost many key seniors from last year's team. All six of their sectional winners from last year graduated, leaving many weight classes up in the air for anyone to win. The team's goal to improve within the conference also deals with New Haven, who placed second last year in the conference behind Bellmont.

"I think the team's goals this year are to win sectionals, advance to the team semi-state tournament and place in at least the top three in conference again," Kyle Luithly (12) said.

The team opens up their season with a meet against DeKalb, the team that placed last in conference last year. The date circled on every wrestler's calendar this year is the meet against conference and state powerhouse Bellmont on Jan. 8.

"I think Bellmont's a very tough team, but it is definitely possible for anyone on our team to defeat them," Natusch said.

While seniors Luithly and Natusch will play major roles in helping the team accomplish their goals, much emphasis should be placed on the sophomore and junior wrestlers. Tucker Smith (11) placed second in conference behind a New Haven senior, Franklin is ranked twentieth overall in the state's preseason rankings and Mills is ranked seventeenth.

"I really want to make it to state," Mills said. "Coming up short [and not making it to state] would be a major disappointment."

Along with losing wrestlers from last year's strong senior class, the wrestling team also lost a key senior from this year's squad. Logan Williams (12), who was ranked nineteenth in the state in the 189 lb. weight class, will not be able to wrestle this year.

"I think Logan will be missed because he was an experienced wrestler at his weight class, but I think the team will live up to its expectations and will not disappoint anyone," Natusch said.

behind the COUNTER

above the STEREOTYPES

Teen fast food workers strive to debunk misconceptions on industry practices

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Felicia Miller (12), shown above working at the Dairy Queen counter, likes being able to see her friends at work.

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The kid who huddled over the deep fryer was just another ingredient in the average afternoon shift at McDonald's.

His shirt was half-untucked, and his hair was disheveled just enough to symbolize what it feels like to attend three periods of high school, four hours of IPFW core classes and then trade in his American Eagle polo for the Golden Arch scrubs.

On the other side of the counter was a different world. A middle-schooler whizzed between chairs on his skateboard with a double cheeseburger in hand while a mother spread napkins on a tabletop before her children dove into their Happy Meals.

The McDonald's employee was 17-year-old Jacob Evans (12), and he knows a little bit about the fast food industry.

"Customers already come with a negative stereotype, I guess, of McDonald's," Evans said. "If they get bad service of any kind, they flip out. You just have to be calm."

Evans is not only part of a corporation that he claims is not only "pretty sophisticated," but also a dominant presence in the Summit City. Fort Wayne McDonald's restaurants outnumber those of Wendy's, Arby's and Burger King at a rate of 20 to 14. For every one Dairy Queen in the city, there are two homes of the Big Mac.

And for every fast food establishment, employees find themselves facing the occasional disgruntled customer. According to the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health, approximately 500 complaints per year are received regarding improper food safety.

"The complaints do not address whether the food handler is a teenager or not," Dawn McDevitt, Director of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health's Food and Consumer Protection Division, said. "Therefore, we have no way to correlate whether teenagers are more or less responsible for poor food handling practices than any other age group."

Sam Stahl (11), a Wendy's employee, finds it unfair that fast food laborers are often singled out for their lack of sanitation.

"Everybody can drop some food, but for Wendy's, we're pretty good about cleanliness," Stahl said. "We always wear gloves. If we don't wear gloves, we're always washing our hands."

In 2004, Section 171 of the Indiana Food Code was revised to restrict "bare hand contact of ready-to-eat foods to very limited situations." Public education of the update, explains McDevitt, has led to an "improvement in this area."

For a variety of teen workers, however, handwashing is last on their list of workplace gripes. Jessica Blanchard (11), a Jimmy John's employee of seven months, admits that "a lot" goes on behind the counter that the average customer does not know about, but such events never hinder the quality of said customer's order.

"If you're one of those customers, we'll probably talk about you and you won't even know it," Blanchard said, placing a subtle emphasis on the word "those."

Blanchard began hunting for jobs this past spring, and after applying to an estimated 20 businesses, she accepted a position at the Jefferson Blvd. sandwich shop. The Champaign, Illinois-based Jimmy John's is not the only delicatessen in town, and Blanchard's co-workers are completely aware of the fact.

> "Customers already come with a negative stereotype, I guess, of McDonald's. If they get bad service of any kind, they flip out. You just have to be calm."
>
> **JACOB EVANS (12)**
> McDonald's Employee

"We always say that we're better than Subway," Blanchard said, "but I personally don't like Subway. It's just a preference, you could say."

Still, the franchise finger-pointing has proven prevalent in the adolescent underbelly of the fast food industry. Evans, beaming at his own sentiment, alleged that his fellow employees have heard horror stories of Dairy Queen origin.

"Everyone that works [at Dairy Queen] says they're treated like slaves," Evans said, and he then adds with a touch of finality, "That is a quote."

Although the back-and-forth claims persist, Felicia Miller (12), Dairy Queen employee of one year and seven months, has been ready with a rebuttal since day one.

"I would eat this food," Miller declared amidst a backdrop of vats of chocolate syrup and a furiously swirling Blizzard machine.

Evans, on the other hand, has reason to place less faith in McDonald's process. He claims that the root of McDonald's training program, a standardized food safety test, is often overlooked due to "nice" managers offering answers to prospective burger handlers.

"Behind the scenes, a lot of people who work in food preparation haven't even passed that [the test]," Evans said. "They really don't even know what they're doing."

He alleges that one employee who was only halfheartedly quizzed on food safety cooked grilled chicken incorrectly and served it to an unknowing customer.

"Someone took it back and the whole middle was red," Evans said. "It was real nasty. They had taken a huge bite out of it."

Despite the blatancy of such incidents, organizations have found it difficult to index missteps by the teenage demographic and their management counterparts behind the counter. The Indiana Department of Labor, which monitors wages and hours via its Bureau of Child Labor, has issued a year-to-date total of 6,410 citations for violations ranging from employers scheduling teens too late on school nights to not informing them of their legally-permitted breaks during shifts of six or more hours. Adding a human face to those numbers, according to Deputy Commissioner Rick Ruble, is an unrealistic task.

"It is nearly impossible to speculate as to the number of potential violations that go 'unnoticed,'" Ruble said. "If the Bureau of Child labor receives notice of a violation or potential violation, we investigate. We have no way of knowing how many potential violations are never brought to our attention."

At the end of the day, students centralize their motivation around the paycheck that awaits them at the end of the week and the bonds they form with fellow employees.

"[Before I was hired], every time I came in Jimmy John's, it was always a fun environment," Blanchard said. "Everyone was really nice. I'm just glad to be a part of a fun team, I guess."

Evans, who plans to leave his position as a Crew Trainer if he lands a job with defense contractor Raytheon next year, has no regrets for the 16 months he has spent inside the walls of the world's largest fast food chain.

Then, as he squeezes through the door to exit McDonald's, one detail glistens in plethora of yellow and red decor: Jacob Evans' shirt is finally fully untucked.

FAST FOOD IN THE FORT

The following are the top 10 most common fast food chains in the Fort Wayne area:

SUBWAY
34 restaurants

MCDONALD'S
20 restaurants

ARBY'S
14 restaurants

BURGER KING
14 restaurants

PIZZA HUT
14 restaurants

WENDY'S
14 restaurants

TACO BELL
13 restaurants

DAIRY QUEEN
12 restaurants

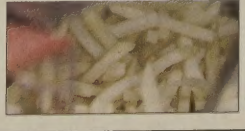
BOB EVAN'S
6 restaurants

RALLY'S
6 restaurants

SOURCE: WWW.YELLOWPAGES.COM

JACOB EVANS
MCDONALDS

Evans said that customers often get mad about little things. Once when he handed a bag to a customer, the person was mad as soon as she saw the bag because it wasn't perfectly folded. He said that she told him "I know your one manager's not here, because she wouldn't allow that. This is awful service." She then proceeded to complain about how poorly the burger was wrapped. Evans pointed out that the way food is wrapped does not change the quality of the food.



Before working at Jimmy John's, Blanchard recalls getting really annoyed if the food she ordered took forever to make. Now that she's the one preparing the food, she has learned that mad customers only make the process take longer. Overall, Blanchard says that working is "a good experience. Places like this are a good first job because it's not the hardest thing you could ever do, but it teaches you to get along with other people that you wouldn't normally try to."

JESSICA BLANCHARD
JIMMY JOHN'S

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 7 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Friday, December 5, 2008

District prepares referendum homestretch

Superintendent, campaign co-chairs are positive community will vote for tax hike

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Southwest Allen County Schools superintendent Brian Smith knows that one day can decide the next seven years for his district.

On April 21, 2009, his stumping for a property tax increase benefitting the district's competitive edge will be put to the test as county residents enter their polling booths. Faced with alleviating a deepening fiscal crisis, Smith plans to accelerate his referendum renewal campaign following the district's two-week winter break.

Along with referendum task force co-chairs Karen Kirby and Carla Overdahl, Smith remains optimistic, but hesitant to draw conclusions.

"We're in a pretty tough economic environment," Smith said. "I can't take anything for granted. It's probably the worst of times to go out asking for money and yet, great schools are what keeps communities growing and people moving here."

DATE OF REFERENDUM
April 21, 2009

The tax hike, which would cost district homeowners an estimated $10 to $15 more per year, has been proposed to rescue SACS schools from ballooning class sizes and

Referendum, continued on 2A

BUDGET CUTS

The school board has already cut or is planning to cut the following:

TRUE LIFE CHOICES
Savings: $11,700
WEIGHT ROOM SUPERVISOR
Savings: $7,200
ONE HHS SCIENCE TEACHER
Savings: $50,000
VARIOUS LIBRARY SERVICES
Savings: $153,000
ONE DEAN POSITION
Savings: $78,000

SOURCE: WWW.SACS.K12.IN.US

MORNING RESPITE

Two extra hours provide much needed break for some, inconvenience for others

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Where there is winter, there is snow. Where there is snow, there are two hour delays and cancellations. Such deviations from the routine schedule can be great for students, allowing them extra time to sleep in or finish homework. In the case of a cancelation, many spend the day relaxing at home and spend time with friends.

"I hang out with my boyfriend and babysit my siblings," Lauren French (10) said. "The positive things are that I get to sleep in and the classes are shorter."

Not only do students enjoy two hour delays and cancellations, but teachers also share some of the benefits. Although they cause disruptions in the schedule, delays and cancellations are often welcomed by teachers.

"I get to sleep in too," Toiyonna Arias, Spanish teacher, said. "Also, it allows [teachers] to evaluate how we spend class time. With cancellations, my feelings are definitely mixed. I do not want to have to add days on to the end of the school year, but sometimes Mother Nature

Delays, continued on 2A

"...sometimes Mother Nature provides us all a much needed break in routine."
TOIYONNA ARIAS
Spanish Teacher

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

Top: Kendy Osborn (12) scrapes the snow off her car before going to school after a two hour delay. **Above:** Tuesday's two hour delay is relayed to students on T.V.

DELAYS & CLOSINGS

Delay and closing statistics for Southwest Allen County Schools between 2004-2008.

TOTAL 2 HR DELAYS: 23
TOTAL CLOSINGS: 17
EARLIEST 2 HR DELAY: November 15
EARLIEST CLOSING: December 5
LATEST 2 HR DELAY: May 10
LATEST CLOSING: April 21

INFORMATION BY JANET TODD

Students left in dark as to actual presence of drugs in school

Drug scenes in a high school are rarely illustrated properly. Countless movies, music, and other multi-media directed towards teens foretell the unavoidable "offer" students get from a new or trusted friend to engage in drugs. Of course, the protagonist always politely declines and goes on to live a better life, but what happens when students tread the other path?

The use of drugs is a rather blurry topic, even in our society today. Although movies often depict high school as a venue swarming with temptations and addictions, few of us really know about drugs and those who use them. According to the Student Handbook, "Because tobacco use, involvement in fights, truancy, and continuous negative behaviors often indicate potential drug use, students who commit any of the following acts will be requested, subject to parental consent if the student is under the age of 18 years, to submit to a drug test administered under school supervision." Outlining the behaviors that could lead to drug use gives us an idea of what that path holds, but every school fight or truancy was due to a drug related problem, one would assume that there would be countless arrests every day. Clearly something isn't right.

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

Where and why students start using drugs varies, so students of each grade were asked which grade level they believed was most prone to drug use. While, the senior class said juniors use the most drugs, the junior class said the seniors use the most drugs. On the other hand, the sophomores and freshmen said the juniors use the most drugs as well. Selective students were then asked to list 10 people they knew, and whether or not those students used drugs. One sophomore had 1 out of 10; another had 2. One junior had 1 out of 10 and another 6, and finally, a senior knew 8 out of 10 acquaintances who did drugs. Although there may be bias in the students who were surveyed, the general trend found is that the more mobile we are, the worse situations we get into.

In freshman year, the majority of class

Drugs, continued on 2A

BRIEFS

MUSIC PERFORMANCES
The orchestra, jazz band, show choirs, concert choir and Cerulean Java will be performing in the winter concert on Thurs., Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. The concert, which will be held in the auditorium, is free and is open to the public

DOORS OPEN AT 7 A.M.
All doors to the building will now be unlocked to students at 7 a.m. Any student who arrives before that time will not be allowed into the building. Make sure that you schedule your arrival accordingly.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL
Homestead intramural basketball is about to begin. Sign up sheets can be found in the Dean's office. The cost is $30 per person, and students may sign up as a team or as an individual to be placed on a team. Players must sign up by December 17.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Proposition 8, Auto bailout, Left and Write: Abortion
PAGE 4A, Opinion: Letters to the Editor, Ed Board, Story of Thanksgiving
PAGE 5A, Life: Winter Scenes, Twilight
PAGE 6A, Life: Holiday excitement, Bad Weather Driving, Profile: Matt Amberg
PAGE 7A, Sports: Local Sports, Full Court Press, From the Booth, Dive Team
PAGE 8A, Feature: The Perfect Snow Day

Students England bound

BY AREZOO NAZARI
WRITER

Booking flights, reserving hotels and marking the calendar for England, English teacher Steve Clough, along with other staff members and students, prepare for this summer's Scepter'd Isle trip.

Planning to explore the unique restaurants, cathedrals and castles in England and Scotland, those going on the trip will experience a once-in-a-lifetime cultural opportunity. Traveling from village to town to city, they will be sure to find the streets and houses filled with historical significance. The trip even includes tea at the Cathedral of Evensong, shopping in Skipton and exploration of a Celtic monastery.

"Being in Clough's class opened my eyes to the history and basis of influential literature," Nicole Szoko (12), a student that will be going on the trip, said. "This is a great opportunity to experience a different culture without the barriers of language."

Clough has given the opportunity for students to travel to England in previous years; however, due to inflated gas prices, airline tickets were pricey, resulting in the cancelation of last year's trip. Because Clough did not provide a trip last year, he made sure that there would

England Trip, continued on 2A

Keep it classy, semi

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

Boys are making reservations for dinner, girls are gushing about the color of their dresses, and everyone is talking about who is going with whom. That's right, semiformal season is in full swing. Tickets were on sale this past week at lunch for $15, and are also available at the door. To get into the dance, students must have their Student IDs.

DETAILS

WHEN
December 6
7:30-11:30
WHERE
HHS Cafeteria
PRICE
$15.00

Semiformal will take place in the cafeteria

Semiformal, continued on 2A

ENGLAND TRIP
CONTINUED FROM 1A

be one this year.

Many of the students signed up are upperclassman enrolled in Clough's English Literature or Chaucer and Shakespeare class. With foundational knowledge of the region, students are able to readily learn about the lifestyles of England's modern and medieval days.

Chaperones for the trip include French teacher Gregory Fryzel and English teacher Howard Jankowski. It will be Fryzel's second time making the journey.

"Steve Clough was an excellent tour director and resource, which made me want to enjoy it all over again," Fryzel said.

Nevertheless, for the 12-day trip to take place, much preparation is needed. Buying reasonably priced tickets, reserving hotels and finding transportation are all a part of a successful trip. Luckily, due to his experiences in previous years, Clough will only have to make minor modifications because many of the aspects of the trip remain the same from year to year. For example, he has kept the same escort to take the students on the tour.

"I have always wanted to go to England," Mike Hall (12), a student who plans to attend, said. "I think it would be really fun. I am really excited to learn about England's history and what it offers in expanding my cultural experiences."

Including visits to two countries, a five-hour time change and an eight-and-a-half hour flight over the Atlantic, the trip is sure to be a success. Deviating from the typical summer day by the pool, it will give students the chance to explore and enrich their knowledge of the culture and the world. In July, the group will leave the O'Hare Airport with excitement and interest; however, they are sure to return with far more than that. They may bring souvenirs and pictures, but most importantly, they will have the memories and knowledge of the indescribable beauty of the English countryside and Scottish Castles.

Top: Charlotte Bronte's gravestone, seen in Westminster Abbey. **Above:** Clough's group of students during the 2006 England trip. **Right:** One of various cathedrals that will be seen by this year's student group.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE CLOUGH

SEMIFORMAL
CONTINUED FROM 1A

tomorrow night, Dec. 6 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. As selected by student government, the theme of this year's semiformal is "A Black Tie Affair," beating out other suggested themes like "Arabian Nights" and "A Moment in Time." This year's theme was selected to emulate the old Hollywood class and its common black tie affairs.

One of the most attended dances, semiformal is open to all Homestead students, regardless of class. Girls traditionally wear cocktail dresses, though some opt for longer gowns, and boys usually wear suits and a tie.

Although semi has traditionally been held at an off-campus location, this year's dance will be in the cafeteria because all other considered venues were booked. Though semiformal will not include an extravagant venue as in previous years, student government members hope that this year's dance will live up to it's lush theme.

"We're trying to disguise the cafeteria as much as possible with the decorations with the money we saved on the location," Jessie Hanselmann (10), a student government member, said. "The decorations this year will be based on the colors black and white, and silver and red. There will be lounges set up on one side of the cafeteria, a dance floor in the middle, and cookies and water will be set up in the senior lounge. We decided to use a lot of drapes and soft, silky fabric."

Flowing fabric will be an appropriate addition to the elegant cocktail dresses and matching ties that will be seen Saturday. Although dressing up might not be the most fun part of semi for male students, it is the highlight of the evening for most girls.

"I'm sure my date and I will have fun, but I'm looking forward to getting ready with all of my friends and taking pictures beforehand," Samantha Conner (10) said.

While it isn't uncommon for students to go stag, many choose to spend the evening with a date. As the weeks leading up to semi slipped away, many hoped to secure their date with romantic and creative proposals to semi.

"One day during dance class, some music by Jason Mraz was playing," Jenna Banas (11) said. "I didn't think anything of it because music is always playing. All of a sudden in the middle of "I'm Yours," the song cut out and it was Albert [Jennings' (11)] voice asking me to semi. I wasn't expecting it at all so it was a really sweet surprise."

Although students are allowed to bring guests from other schools, all people who do not go to Homestead must have prior approval to attend semiformal. Permission to invite guests is obtained by filling out a "Special Events Guest Request Form" and turning it in to student services.

"It's senior year, so it should be fun," Kyle Kopplemann (12) said. "It's one of the last times I'll be with all of my friends at a school event."

DRUGS
CONTINUED FROM 1A

room talk between students is stories about upperclassmen.

Nowadays, arrests and issues of drug abuse hit closer to home for underclassmen. Homestead has even been labeled as the "cocaine school," by students from other local districts.

While most of us are unaware of this title, many have issues with the current drug policies. One student said, "I really have no problem with the drug policy. The only big issue I have is how they test athletes." Many others complain about the drug testing of athletes, arguing that most of the students who partake in drugs are not involved in school sports.

However, regardless of testing strategies, it has become shockingly evident that drugs including tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, Adderall, Fentanyl, drug laced suckers, acid, cocaine, heroin, shrooms, ecstasy, and Robitussin, have all been used by certain students. The selection of drugs at Homestead is staggering and yet, so secretive.

> "I've learned a lot by seeing people mess up their lives, but I've gained a new perspective on drugs by witnessing that. The key is moderation and discipline."
>
> **ANONYMOUS**
> Student

Drug use has always been shown as one sided and bad in nature. Now while drugs obviously hold sketchy consequences, it was time to ask some users what they thought. "I do not regret a single thing, I am very happy. I've learned a lot by seeing people mess up their lives, but I've gained a new perspective on drugs by witnessing that. The key is moderation and discipline." Now we have to ask ourselves a question, how do we see people? We always assume drug users lead a miserable and less than fulfilling live, but those kinds of people aren't common at Homestead, it's never that obvious. People on the bus, people in the hallways, people in class sitting right next to you, in reality anyone could be using drugs and we'd never know the difference. The drug problem at Homestead presents itself finally, as not a big or prominently obvious issue due its secrecy and elusive nature. While Homestead does have a problem, it seems we'll never know the difference. Which leads to the final question, can this be stopped?

REFERENDUM
CONTINUED FROM 1A

limited advanced and elective course choices. If rejected by the community, an estimated 40 to 50 teachers, or the monetary equal of $9.5 million, would be trimmed from the district's salary roster.

The cutbacks and their long-term effects, Smith asserts, would be "devastating to the district."

> "We're not doing anything wrong. We're trying to maintain excellence and this [referendum] is allowing us to do it."
>
> **DR. BRIAN SMITH**
> Superintendant

"As colleges and universities become more selective, I fear that Homestead students could become less competitive," co-chair Overdahl said. "One of the strengths of our district is its continual drive to improve. Dramatic cuts would cripple those efforts and stress teachers and staff to the breaking point."

According to Smith, 78 percent of the $3.5 million requested by the referendum would contribute to teacher pay and employment. Consequently, class sizes would diminish, especially at the elementary school level, where kindergarten student-to-teacher ratios could spike from 18 to 1 to 30 to 1.

Confined by an allegedly "lopsided" equation that places Homestead second-to-last on the state funding ladder, the superintendent is ready to confront the politics of education.

"It's a flawed formula that distributes the money, in my opinion," Smith said. "...And yet, there is nothing in the formula that awards for improvement or performance."

Smith has submitted a formula revision that takes into account a district's standardized test scores and financial frugality, but his pitch would not be factored in until 2011 if accepted. Although legislation allows the equation to be altered on a biannual basis, the 2009 form has already been finalized. Such legislation has forced the district to rely heavily on the passage of a referendum and the aid of its community.

"Parents understand and support it," co-chair Kirby said. "Local business owners also seem to appreciate the importance of strong schools as a recruiting tool for families considering moving to Ft. Wayne and as a future local labor pool."

Smith has spread the word by addressing parents of extracurricular participants, distributing brochures customized by school and printing promotional posters. Once the campaign is revitalized in January, he hopes to create discount cards for six area businesses and speak to Homestead government classes regarding the state's funding process. Despite efforts to raise awareness of the issue, mobilizing those demographics least involved in the SACS school system—senior citizens and property renters—is an obstacle the task force recognizes.

73-year-old Merle Cikra, who has lived in southwest Allen county since 1987, has yet to receive any information from the renewal campaign, but is conscious of what is at stake.

"I would be for [the referendum] renewal," Cikra said. "I have friends who are teachers in the district. I know they need the money."

As the district administration embarks on the final four months of its campaign, Smith is reminded that the referendum can not cure all fiscal ailments. In order to balance a budget scarred by state legislation's "circuit breaker" tax cap and a loss in growth rewards, SACS will be cutting approximately $1.3 million by the time voters pull the curtain shut behind them in the spring.

Still, SACS is one of only three districts in the state that host referendums alongside Carmel Clay Schools in Carmel, Ind. and Washington Township School District in Indianapolis. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the superintendent explains, is a "no-brainer."

"We're not doing anything wrong," Smith said. "We're trying to maintain excellence and this [referendum] is allowing us to do it."

FUNDING PER STUDENT

	2007	2008	2009
STATE AVERAGE	$5,402	$5,543	$5,712
SACS	$4,978	$4,962	$5,009

SOURCE: WWW.SACS.K12.IN.US

$703 difference x 6,532 total SACS students
=$4,591,996

DELAYS
CONTINUED FROM 1A

provides us all a much needed break in routine."

Even though most people like to sleep occasionally, many still argue that two hour delays and cancellations negatively affect students and teachers. For example, on two hour delays, some teachers must skip their lessons or cram them into a shortened class period. Although hazardous weather hindrances seem like an inconvenience for teachers, they understand the necessity and importance of them.

"Like everyone, I enjoy sleeping in an extra hour and spending the other hour grading papers," Bekki Vail, science teacher, said. "Delays do cut into instructional time and some teachers had to cancel time in the computer lab, which is very hard to get in the first place. But with so many students driving, it is better to be safe on the streets than to have inexperienced drivers in car accidents."

Another problem teachers have with two hour delays is the lack of student cooperation. Rather than focusing on class work, students tend to concentrate on the clock.

"One negative aspect is that it sometimes feels like the day drags on," Scott Hill, AP Literature and Etymology teacher, said. "Students show up thinking that school will just fly by, so they come to school over-conscious of time, where the best state of mind to be in is one where you are forgetting about time."

Despite the distractions, teachers try their best to rearrange their schedules to include all of their lesson plans and tests.

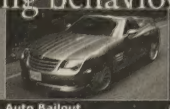
"I shorten the review of the previous night's materials. Then I shorten the lesson, but still continue through as much of the material as possible," Chad Zolman, math teacher, said.

Although delays and cancellations sometimes seem unnecessary, precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of students and staff. "I think, occasionally, the delay is called too early or too late and weather conditions change so that the roads are either more or less safe, making the delay unnecessary," Vail said. "But overall, the administration does a good job of keeping us safe on our way

OPINION

ed board critiques driving behavior, etiquette in junior parking lot, 4a

page 3a
issue 7 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814


Auto Bailout

Abortion

Gay Rights

Friday, December 5, 2008

LEFT AND WRITE | Abortion: The Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life Debate

Woman has innate right to her own life

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

One of the greatest underlying ideals apparent in both the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution is John Locke's natural rights, the innate rights with which everyone born. 200 and some years later, American citizens are still struggling to understand the importance of inherent rights in a democracy. It is debatable whether an unborn body lacking the ability to breathe or think, whose very existence hangs on the umbilical connection with the mother, actually qualifies as a human. However, there is no doubt that the living, thinking, and breathing mother has the inherent right to her own life, her own body.

Coming from various religions and cultures, this society has began to understand that a ban on abortion takes away innate rights that a government does not have say in. Society's understanding of the life-like being of a child during the late stages of pregnancy has allowed the government to place sufficient limitations on abortion. However, a mother has and must continue to have the right to decide. There is no utopia where every pregnancy is planned, where every mother is taking care of her child and every child left out is provided for by the government. Lucid is the right of a mother to choose, but obscure is the right of a single grouping of cells to the possibility of life. Pro-choice leaves the right to decide to oneself instead of to the government.

Mother's choice is not worth baby's life

BY SUZIE REECER
PHOTO EDITOR

In a 2003 National Center for Health Statistics report, the life expectancy for women was 79.8 years, about 957.6 months of life. Therefore, an average pregnant woman would have a baby in her womb for about .0094% of her life. This is when I become confused.

For the sake of explanation, here is an example. A woman and man have sex. The woman realizes she is carrying a baby and has the choice to kill it, or let nature run its course. Let's say the woman and the man decide, "we aren't ready for it" or "we can't afford it." This sickening rationale is plausible for not buying a new pet, but killing a baby? I don't think so. This couple is implying a few minutes of happiness are more important than a person's life.

Instead of giving in to that selfish choice, the man and woman should take responsibility for their actions and live through the nine (of 957.6) months. If, after giving birth to the child, the couple still thinks they are not at a point in their life when they can raise him or her, adoption is the perfect choice. Couples around the world are unable to conceive and would be overjoyed to take care of a child.

Now think about your life. Think of what you have accomplished so far and what you plan to accomplish in your future. Some of you are not sure what you want to do with your life, but you know you have a choice.

What is the baby's choice?

PROP 8

California recently voted in favor of Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in the state. Is this is a step in the wrong direction?

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The recent passing of Proposition 8 is a disgrace to how far we have come as human beings.

Prop 8 is California's constitutional amendment banning gay marriage that passed 52.3 percent to 47.7 percent, according to the Los Angeles Times. Also passed on Nov. 4 were Amendment 2 in Florida and Proposition 102 in Arizona, which both banned same-sex marriages, as well as Initiative Act No. 1 in Arkansas, which banned gay adoption in the state.

The only argument against allowing homosexuals to wed lies in religion. Many religious opponents to same-sex marriage say that they will permit civil unions between couples, but they will not let them marry.

By this logic, these people want to allow gays and lesbians the same legal rights granted through marriage, but remove the actual legal marriage process. The flaw in that plan is that homosexuals want marriages, not civil unions; they want to be legally wed.

The religious crowd wishes to "protect the sanctity of marriage," but how can they do that when they are, in fact, rendering the phrase meaningless?

Rep. Mike Pence (R) recently responded to a question on none other than Fox News saying that social issues like "the sanctity of marriage" will remain the backbone of the conservative party. It makes one wonder how one can trust people who do not properly understand the term upon which their party is based.

The sacredness of a union does not depend on the gender of the two people involved; rather, it lies within the strength of the bond and the love between two people. To say that same-sex couples cannot have just as strong of a bond as two people of the same sex is ignorant and narrow-minded.

The amount of social conservatives who believe this issue actually affects them is puzzling. If they do not believe in gay marriage, they do not have to marry a gay person. Are they afraid that a gay couple will provide an example of an ideal relationship, based on friendship and love?

It seems that the direction that the United States is going now, with the divorce rate over 50 percent, is not exactly moving in the right way, so who is to say that marriage only "works" between a man and a woman?

Despite all of the experience that many opponents to gay marriage have, their consciences still tell them to deny homosexuals the right that they are granted as human beings. The ethic of reciprocity is the fundamental moral, and often religious, value that many conservatives share, which states "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." They believe this phrase, just as long as it does not apply to marriage.

> "Homosexuals simply want the same happiness that heterosexuals can freely achieve through marriage; they just want the same chance at permanence as everyone else."
>
> **BRAD LUFKIN**
> Associate Editor

As far as Initiative Act No. 1 goes, it hurts both same-sex couples and kids waiting to be adopted. It prevents couples from raising that child to whom they want to provide a loving home, and it strands more children in orphanages and foster homes. It is just another level at which gays, people no different from heterosexuals and therefore deserving of the same rights, are oppressed.

There have been many social issues that were once thought of in the same mindset as gay marriage, a few of which include slavery, segregation and women's suffrage. Homosexuals simply want the same happiness that heterosexuals can freely achieve through marriage; they just want the same chance at permanence as everyone else.

Those against same-sex marriage support their claims by nothing more than prejudice and fear. In a world where the idea of equal protection supposedly preserves everyone's rights, the intolerance and bigotry in which Prop 8 on both a moral and legal basis, is completely insupportable.

Reject auto bailout plan, let companies shut down

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

There is no difference between lighting $25 billion on fire or spoon feeding it into the belly of the American auto industry with a bailout. Over the last decade, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler have seen their sales plummet because of their inability to compete in the global market. There is no significant difference in a U.S. or foreign car, but GM, Ford and Chrysler have not been willing to give up their old marketing strategies.

Fifty years ago a similar crisis would cause a firm to change management and strategies, a vital part of any business. Now, an intrinsic part of the American identity, the private sector looks to abandon business and beg the government for money. Congress cannot send the message that it will deal out tax payer money, which does not have enough to spare, to bail out every failing business.

The problem with the auto industry is not the quality of its products but the costs of production. On average an American auto company spends an extra $2,000 building a car of similar quality than those in a foreign country. This is not because foreign companies pay below minimum wage to assembly line workers, but because the U.S. companies choose to pay $20 an hour, not including the major benefit plans, for an assembly job that requires no more than a high school diploma. On average, a worker at GM, Ford or Chrysler earns $60 to $70 an hour including benefits.

Beyond insane spending on production, GM has another problem: they own more than 10 subsidiaries. GM sales look favorable, but production costs increased over the numerous labels makes such a promising figure worthless. Tax revenue should not be handed out to American auto companies to overpay workers and squander money.

It has always been Democrats that have been willing to waste government money on failing, unaccountable bills. However, it was a bi-partisan group that promoted the bailout bill, which luckily did not pass the Senate. The Big Three are set to propose a new bill, with more accountability on their part, on Dec. 2; it will be voted on a week after. Unless this accountability promises a change in the Big Three management and production strategies and does not allow them to pass costs on to car dealers, the non-existent $25 billion they are asking for need not be touched.

The simple truth is that GM, Ford and Chrysler will all declare bankruptcy and shut down if they do not change their ways, whether or not they receive a $25 billion loan. The best advice to these companies is to listen to Mitt Romney, and change the face of their business as quickly as possible. In reality, $25 billion is nothing more than lunchmeat for the overfed pig of the U.S. auto industry. Cut the pigs loose.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL
HALEY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR
ANDREW WEISS

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
ZACH VESSELS

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
MOLLY ZWEIG

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Juniors find their way to their cars after school is released on Wednesday. With unfavorable weather, the parking lot can become even more tumultuous than usual.

Ed board: Parking lot manners at all-time low, need serious reform immediately

As the morning commute inches closer to the dead of winter, a problem has been intensifying right before teen drivers' sleep-deprived eyes. The conflict, regardless of its pre-existence, is obvious: as teenagers, we are not the most polite of motorists.

The problem, however, is not one evident in the senior lot, where students possess the immunized tolerance of their tactless peers. The sophomore lot, on the other hand, is a foreign property that should only be accessible by Disney World-esque monorail, and although it has issues, it is not the sole source of the problem—blatant inexperience overshadows these drivers' secondary flaws. In consequence, the junior lot offers the worst of both worlds, with a tacky cohesion of bravado and incompetency.

We are all guilty of the crime at hand. The occasional cut-off or rushed parking job is not just excusable, but a human mistake that is to be expected. The real offenses, though, may be so subtle that they could pass beneath a driver's eye in a mere blink. Ironically, there does not seem to be much blinking nowadays, as the hunt for a turn signal will yield results quantified on one hand. Stop signs have become sly reminders, urging teens to accelerate before a cluster of their fellow students can set afoot on the crosswalk. In other words, students interpret stop signs in the same manner they react to the notorious one-minute bell.

Pulling into the junior lot has become an unforgiving game of guess-and-check. Parking availability prior to capacity is directly proportional to how many mindless motorists decide to position their car in two spots. The atmosphere is also affected by the petty crimes of those with arguably superior stereos, emitting incessant choruses of rocks-in-a-laundry-machine bass. We could not care less if drivers are listening to Young Jeezy, Rick Astley or Barry Manilow—any artist blared at 103 decibels at 7:30 a.m. is downright obnoxious. There is a fine line between reveling in your choice of audio and being a complete Spencer Pratt.

It is the consistency of these peeves that creates the previously mentioned problem. It is uncertain for how long and to what degree the short stopping, foolish speeds, onboard distractions, turn signal neglect and general malarkey will persist.

This is not quite a call to action, but maybe voicing the issue will result in improved parking lot behavior.

Holiday gaffs run amok

With political correctness entering holidays, true meaning of celebrations lost in translation

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

The holidays are upon us, and with our stomachs settled from the feasts of Thanksgiving, we can now look toward all the festivities of Christmas, but not without the seasonal efforts to remove religion through political correctness.

A credit to PC efforts to anesthetize religion, religious holidays begin much earlier than Dec. 25. Thanksgiving is a religious holiday. George Washington declared this day of food and family a national holiday in 1789 in his Thanksgiving Proclamation:

"Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being."

In his very brief proclamation, our first president makes 10 references to God, all together in relation to this new national holiday.

But society is determined to take religion out of everything and become as secular and politically correct as possible.

The Thanksgiving we know is about family, no more. We give thanks, but leave out who we are giving thanks to.

The first Thanksgiving was a celebration to thank God for earthly progress, to thank Him for the family that had survived and the bounty on which they feasted.

Established as a religious holiday, though, Thanksgiving is no longer associated with its holy foundations—another one of now many merely secular traditions.

Christmas trees have become holiday trees, "Merry Christmas" is now "Season's Greetings," and manger scenes can only be spotted on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary of a church.

For the other six days of the week, the absence and abjection of religion in public society is crippling. No matter the sect, religion is essential to our free society. It is a force that both humbles and empowers, that demands responsibility and comforts with the promise of forgiveness. It serves as a moral compass, a beacon of ethics for social behavior and legislative action, ascertaining that if we lessen the presence of religion in society, we remove the incentive for people to aspire to be good. Christmas encourages individuals to be more Christ-like, sanctioning charity and selflessness. Ramadan nurtures discipline and sacrifice, and Yom Kippur provides lessons in atonement and asceticism.

> "Religious tolerance is ... allowing students to say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays" and allowing menorahs to be displayed without mandating equal display of alternative religious symbolism."
>
> **ASHLEY HEATH**
> Opinion Editor

Religious tolerance is not about neutralizing religion—it is about the free exercise of it, which includes allowing students to say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays" and allowing menorahs to be displayed without mandating equal display of alternative religious symbolism.

As we find ourselves in the midst of another holiday season, political correctness must be left behind. Religion has been a critical part of our country and to deny it its rightful role in our society and culture is to change our most fundamental ideals at the whim of the politicians' movement of the moment and forsake the oul of our ıation for the feelings of the overly sensitive.

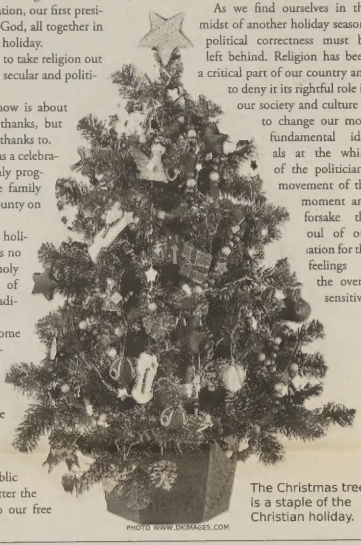


PHOTO WWW.DKIMAGES.COM

The Christmas tree is a staple of the Christian holiday.

LETTER TO THE *editor*

Two students respond to recent opinion articles

In newspapers past, the "Spartana" has printed a number of articles in the opinion section coming from Ashley Heath and Yogesh Jonna. I, along with many other students in Homestead, have realized from the duo's past articles that they are die-hard Republicans. This also lead us to observe that, even though the school has two Republicans in the opinion section, there are no Democratic writers in sight. It seems so unfair to have two openly Republican writers bash democratic ideals without giving a Democrat even a chance to defend them. So I decided that, since no other democrats were stepping forward to defend themselves, that I might as well.

My view on: The Media

Many people, most bitter about the recent election's results, have bashed the media for being biased toward Barack Obama. They speak of how the media influences voters, leading to the victory of the democratic senator. But truly, while the media can influence some undecided voters, it is truly the public that influences the media. The media bases itself on ratings. If the media is leaning towards the left or right while the general public is moderate, the ratings of the biased program would most likely get bad ratings, as it would clash with the ideals of the average American. This scenario, however, hasn't occurred. While the media has begun to lean left, ratings are still quite high. This would only happen if the general public were to be supporting this lean towards Democratic ideals. In truth, this support of the Democratic party isn't hard to understand. America is about to get over the presidency of George W. Bush. Mr. Bush is very much a Republican, has Republican ideals, and has done great damage to the United States. Under President Bush, a war has been started, the economy has fallen, a recession has been started, and the government has fallen into a huge debt. After a president such as Bush, it's no wonder that the country is turning towards the Democrats. It's not like this lean towards the left is only seen in the media. We can see the Democratic leaning of our country is the House of Representatives, in the Senate, and is the fact that Indiana voted blue in our presidential election for the first time since 1964. So a message to all bitter McCain and Palin fans out there: Stop blaming the media for Obama's win, it just doesn't make sense.

Thank you for listening to my small rant on the media. I will try to send a couple more rebuts for a number of other articles… maybe about Ashley's opinions about schools.

Mat Wildrick (10)

I am a Democrat. Call me crazy, but don't call me an infestation. Upon reading the most recent copy of the Spartana, I was shocked to read the Opinion Editor's blatant statement that Socialist has been elected President. Her accusation, although false, crossed the line and filled the pages of our school's paper with uninformed and unfortunate beliefs. I found it ironic how the Opinion Editor used the school's newspaper to cry out in disapproval by using the "infested" education system as an example. According to the Editor, our education system is being infiltrated with socialist views because of the basic lesson of sharing. As much as her accusation is absurd, it is also untrue. Sharing is the right thing to do, just like providing students with both sides of the story to read in our newspaper.

The true and unbiased definition of Socialism is a vision or goal of a more diplomatic and democratic society. This does not define America (especially a week after an election and two months before the President-elect taking office) and it never will. If we were truly a Socialist nation, nobody in our country would own private property and all taxes would be distributed equally. Neither of those two basics applies to America and will continue to be avoided under the Obama administration.

Conservatives around the nation accuse Barack Obama of being a socialist after his remark about "spreading the wealth." Obama was referring to taxes, a system that has always been in place in order to redistribute money throughout the country and to its citizens. If you were to ask me, "Since when have taxes defined patriotism?" I would answer with the word "always." It has always been patriotic to support your country, either financially or by joining the military. Under the Obama administration, no money will be taken from those who need it. The money collected from taxes will directly impact our schools, community, and nation. Conservatives around the world are complaining, including our Opinion Editor. I hope they soon realize that the changes our President-elect will bring is going to directly impact our education and society. I doubt that the Opinion Editor will be complaining once her college aid comes rolling in, the educational opportunities improve for her siblings, or even the air she breathes becomes cleaner. Even if you disagree with Obama's tax plan, being a true patriot would be to respect and support your president-elect along with the change he wants to bring to our country.

Change will come in the next four years, but not socialism. Hopefully however, change will also come to our Spartana. Every student at our school deserves to read bipartisan articles or at least both sides of the story, rather than uneducated statements about the man who will soon be leading our country.

Kate Lessing (12)

WE HAVE HAD OUR SAY,
NOW LET US HEAR...
YOURS.

SEND YOUR OPINIONS TO THE SPARTANA STAFF BY E-MAILING YOUR LETTER TO...

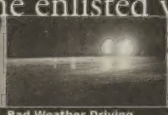
THESPARTANA@GMAIL.COM

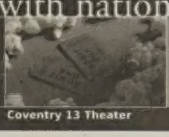
LIFE

matthew amberg explains why he enlisted with national guard, 6a

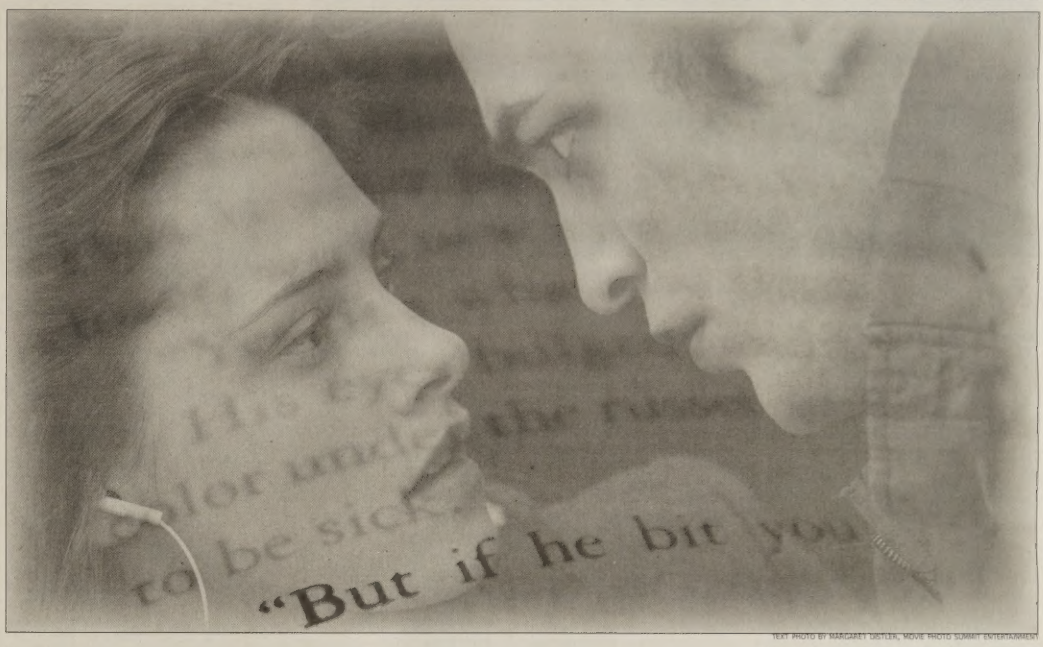
page 5a
issue 7 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Twilight Series


Bad Weather Driving


Coventry 13 Theater

Friday, December 5, 2008



TEXT PHOTO BY MARGARET LISTER, MOVIE PHOTO SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

books with a bite

Students react to anticipated Twilight movie, series

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

Twilight, the much-hyped and highly anticipated film based on Stephanie Meyer's phenomenally successful teen novel, hit theaters last weekend and both amazed and disappointed viewers.

Not since Harry Potter has a book-to-film journey caused so much excitement and anticipation from people of all ages. The book told the story of the tortured romance between a handsome vampire on a non-human diet and a mortal high school girl.

Twilight hit theaters two weeks ago with a bang. The movie took a giant bite out of the box office by making $70.6 million dollars in tickets during the first weekend. Midnight showings for Twilight were sold out across the country.

"I went to the very first showing," Jacquee Bowman (12) said.

After fans saw the movie, they gave it mixed reviews.

"I liked it. The characters looked just how I thought they would," Bowman said.

One of the more popular characters was the handsome Edward Cullen, who was played by Robert Pattinson.

"I loved everything, especially Edward," Cassie Schwartz (12) said.

While the actors may have been enough to get a good review from some, many were disappointed with the movie as a whole.

"The movie was decent, but the actors could have been better," Ian Tesch (12) said.

Although not everyone fell completely in love with the movie, everyone found something they liked about it.

"My favorite part was when Edward kissed Bella for the first time," Allie Bley (11) said.

Some liked the characters so much they acted out during the movie.

"When Edward was first introduced in the film the whole theatre went nuts; it was cool," Bowman said. "I also liked when Edward freaked out when he first saw Bella."

Even with stellar reviews, there is always something that those who read the book first wish would have been different in the movie.

"I wish it could have included more detail like the book," Bowman said. "The book was better because it included so much more detail. It didn't have a time limit."

While most considered the movie to be lacking description, some saw a problem with the chemistry between the actors.

"I didn't like how Kristen Stewart played Bella," Tesch said. "In the book Bella seemed much more connected to Edward, and in the movie it looked like they only knew each other for a couple days."

Movie-goers who had not yet read the book found the film less disappointing.

"I loved everything. It was awesome," Schwartz, who had not read the book when she saw the movie, said.

When it comes down to comparing the movie and the book, those who have seen and read both have come to a unanimous conclusion.

"The book had a great mix of sci-fi and romance and the movie didn't do it justice," Tesch said.

However, the movie itself has inspired many spectators to read the book.

"I just started reading the book because I thought the movie was so good. I saw the movie and bought the book the very next day," Schwartz said.

The next book in the Twilight saga, New Moon, is next in line to be made into a movie. Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart have both signed on to be in the sequels, and to the delight of Twilight enthusiasts everywhere, the tale of the two star-crossed lovers will continue to be explored on-screen.

An estimated $70.6 million was made on the opening weekend of November 21 for the Twilight film.

THE SAGA IN SECONDS

twilight:
- 544 pages
- released on October 5, 2005
- cover art represents the forbidden fruit in Genesis in the Bible
- based off of Stephenie Meyer's dream

new moon:
- 608 pages
- released on September 6, 2006
- title refers to the darkest time in the lunar cycle, creating the darkest time in Bella's life
- #1 best seller for 11 weeks

eclipse:
- 640 pages
- released on August 7, 2007
- 150,000 copies sold in the first 24 hours
- the broken ribbon cover art represents the choice Bella has for love

breaking dawn:
- 768 pages
- released on August 2, 2008
- 1.3 million copies were sold in the first 24 hours
- cover art is a metaphor for Bella's rank changing from a pawn in Twilight to the powerful queen at the end

series:
- sold over 25 millions copies worldwide
- Godiva Chocolatiers based a chocolate bar off of the books
- books have been translated into 37 different languages

twilight movie:
- filmed in books' setting: Forks, Washington

Coventry 13 theater increases movie ticket prices

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

When stifling humidity rolls in and the persistent commotion of the school year gives way to leisurely summer days, students often take refuge in air-conditioned sanctuaries in order to beat the incessant heat. Movie theaters that are such destinations are often frequented by teenagers, but will a recent increase in local theater Coventry 13's notoriously low prices cause students to seek cheaper shelter?

"[Prices are now] $3.00 all day except for Tuesdays, during which they are $2.00," Jennifer Blair, manager of Coventry 13, said.

Although "the three dollar theater" doesn't seem to have the simplistic ring that Coventry 13's previous reputation as "the dollar theater" bore, the current increase in prices seems to lessen the appeal that the theater once had.

"We're now a mid-run theater. Once the movies leave the first-run theaters, we get them immediately thereafter, instead of waiting until they're practically on DVD," Blair said.

As a first-run theater, Rave Motion Pictures seems to be Coventry 13's most formidable local opposition, but with matinee prices of $6.50 and evening rates of $8.50, attending films at Rave may be a bit exorbitant for some students.

"I know you have to pay more at Rave, but you get a lot more for your money. You can get food at Coventry 13, and even though going with friends can be fun, it's not the same. Rave is just a nicer establishment," Lauren Arnold (10) said. "If I want to go see a movie, I'd rather go there."

"If I don't really want to see a movie, I like Coventry 13 because it isn't as expensive [as Rave] and it's okay if I didn't like it. Coventry 13 is a fun place to hang out with friends, but if I want to see a movie badly, Rave is better because there are other things to do in that area," Nicole Ivanovic (10) said.

While it may be more fiscally prudent to attend movies at Coventry 13, those itching to see holiday blockbusters such as Australia and Twilight are likely to be drawn to Rave's prompt delivery of new films and the relative luxury of its interior as compared to Coventry 13. However, will an increase in ticket fare deter students from attending Coventry 13?

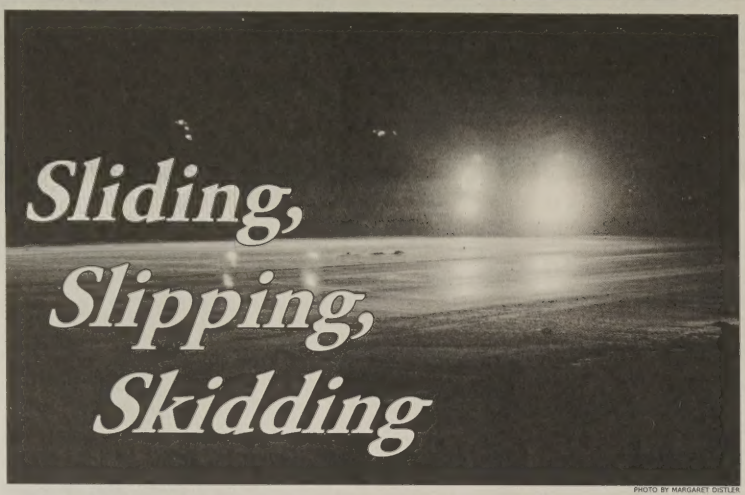
"I understand that they need higher prices to stay in business and I'll probably go a few times, but not often. I'd rather see movies that are newly out," Arnold said.

"I don't think I'll go to Coventry 13 as much because their prices are higher. I'll go less now because they still don't get the movies fast enough," Ivanovic said.

With the winter holidays rapidly approaching and schoolwork coming to a crescendo before vacation, students may be so preoccupied by participating in winter activities and purchasing gifts that they will have no time to visit the movie theaters.

PRICES
Prices are $3 except on Tues. $2.

"It's around the holidays and our attendance always drops because of holiday shopping and family activities," Blaire said. "Personally, I don't think that the price increase will affect our attendance, but only time will tell."



Sliding, Slipping, Skidding

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Snow brings caution for young drivers on road

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

As winter nears, students must prepare for the danger that snow storms can create on roads. As snow falls and the roads become more snow covered, driving conditions continually become worse. While students may think that they are fine with driving through snow, it is nearly impossible to anticipate the consequences of speeding across a patch of black ice. Even if there is only a slight dusting of snow on the roads, there is still the possibility that black ice can cause drivers to lose control of their cars and fly off the road. While students may be nonchalant about driving under winter conditions, the consequences of failing to take precautions can be immense.

Many students believe that the feeling of waking up on a dark winter morning to see the dazzling sight of several inches of snow on the ground is one of the best feelings there is. However, if school does not get cancelled or students decide to go visit their friends on a snow day, driving in these types of conditions can be dangerous. However, if students take precautions, the amount of danger is quickly reduced.

"If it's really bad out, I will take a lot of precautions, especially if it's icy. Mainly, I go slower than I normally would," Sara Hoppe (11) said.

Tim Decker, a driver's education teacher at Homestead, helps teach new drivers how to drive in these dangerous winter conditions before they hit the roads for the first time.

"The first thing I tell students is that you've got to slow down. You've got to drive according to the weather conditions," Decker said. "If it's snowing out or if it's icy out, you've got to slow down. That's probably the biggest key."

One means of cutting down on the dangers of driving in the winter months is a two-hour delay. Depending on how bad the roads are, the district can be run on a two-hour delay schedule. Delaying is beneficial because students have the benefit of being able to drive through snow and ice covered roads in sunlight instead of the dark.

"I think [two-hour delays] are helpful because it gives the roads more time to clear up, and it's also lighter so drivers can see better," Hoppe said.

Some students may appreciate two-hour delays because they get to sleep in, but in reality, they provide many more benefits than just extra sleep. Two-hour delays can be the deciding factor in whether or not students make it to school safely.

"I do believe [that two-hour delays are helpful] because it gives the students more time to get ready in the morning, and gives them more time to drive to school," Luke Beckwith (11) said.

While two-hour delays can be beneficial, student who fail to use the extra time to get to school more safely defeat the purpose.

"Two-hour delays are designed for two things: to give the road crews time to clear the roads, and the student an opportunity to have more time so that they can get [to school] more safely. I don't know if they do that all the time," Decker said. "They say, 'Ok, it's two extra hours,' and then they end up in the same situation, hurrying to school, and you have slick roads and other conditions."

HOW TO:
CORRECT SLIDING

Turn the wheel in the same direction that you are sliding, which realigns the wheels, and then gently apply the brakes.

Being involved in a wintertime crash can have a large impact on a student's driving style. When a student is involved in a crash, he will more inclined to drive slowly when road conditions are poor.

"If you haven't been in a crash in the winter, you're more liable to go the same speed you usually do, and not be as cautious," Beckwith said. "After you have [been in a crash], you are more likely to be cautious."

As road conditions worsen, students need to suppress their pride by taking their foot off the gas pedal and keeping their eyes on the road. If they do this, in addition to practicing the defensive driving skills taught in driver's ed, they will likely live to drive another day.

Christmas movies, music, gifts welcome holiday sentiments

Although Boxing Day and New Year's are highly celebrated, I'm more excited about Christmas approaching.

Since the beginning of November, I've been shamefully listening to the jingles of Mannheim Steamroller, Bing Crosby and Trans-Siberian Orchestra; I first knew that the holidays were near when I heard the Eurhythmics' version of "Winter Wonderland" while pumping gas on Nov. 1.

I don't care if I annoy everyone else by blasting "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" when I pull into the parking lot—I am genuinely thrilled for this holiday season, and listening to festive ditties only intensifies my already ravenous excitement.

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOC. EDITOR

Music is not the only aspect of Christmas that decks my halls, though. I know it sounds superficial, but I love getting gifts. Who doesn't? You're getting free stuff from relatives that you talk to once every three years.

Besides the presents and songs, however, the movies are the pinnacle of Yuletide celebrations. I get absorbed in the tacky and dimensional plot lines created by the less than Oscar-worthy acting of the C-list Hollywood stars.

The timely television channels broadcast the feel-good, albeit extremely cliché movies that Christmas is all about. I'm sure that you've all seen the mastery of the holidays that is the "25 Days of Christmas" countdown on ABC Family, but I think there's a new Christmas movie goliath in town, and his name is the Hallmark Channel.

The lesser know Hallmark Channel (137 on Comcast) has only been around since 2001; it hasn't had the time to get its broadcasting foot in the door. It's a channel fit for the whole familiy. Imagine the Hallmark store, just in television form; it's just as boring, but just as wholesome.

I recently tuned to the Hallmark Channel and got so wrapped up in the movie "Moonlight and Mistletoe," which is set in a town called Santaville. DJ from Full House and her father, played by the ever dynamic Tom Arnold, must save the town from becoming commercialized by selling handmade, wooden nutcrackers and blogging about their town's near demise. Thankfully, yet unsurprisingly, they raise enough money in order to save their town, and they all lived happily ever after. But, besides the stellar plot and top-notch acting, the stories of these cinematic masterpieces allow viewers to truly understand the Hallmark meaning of Christmas.

The citizens of Santaville understand the holiday. They know that it's a time of coming together, being thankful for everything in your life and saving your town from becoming the next roadside attraction. They united to save their home and preserve the significance of Christmas, and I feel that we can all learn a lesson from these well-crafted characters.

When you set the milk andd cookies out for Santa this Christmas, think of the citizens of Santaville, and their appreciation for Christmas. Become a character in a cheesy Hallmark movie, and embrace the excitement of the holiday of green and red.

Life after high school: joining the Air Force

Senior Matthew Amberg speaks of fulfilling his personal responsibility to serve his country

Spartana: What is your plan for life after high school?

Amberg: I'll be leaving for basic training in September and after eight and a half weeks of basic training I will have to go to Technical School, which I will participate in for another fourteen weeks for Aircraft Armaments, where I will learn to load munitions on aircraft. After that I will have 60 seasoning days, in which I'll be working my job on the base which is out at Fort Wayne Indiana National Airport with the 122nd Air Wing. After those 60 days are up, I will switch to my part-time position of working one weekend a month and two weeks a year. I will have a six year commitment.

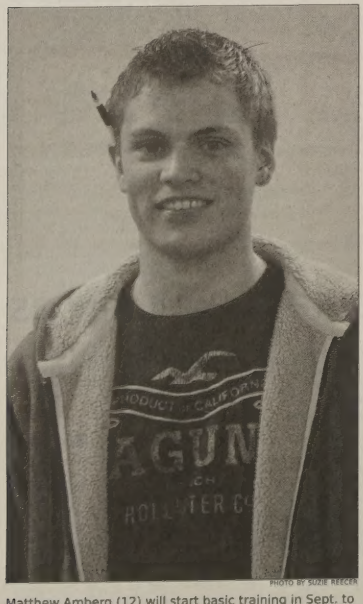


PHOTO BY SUZIE REEDER

Matthew Amberg (12) will start basic training in Sept. to prepare for a six year commitment with the Ft. Wayne Indiana National Airport's 122nd Air Wing.

Spartana: When did you decide to take this direction in your life and why?

Amberg: I decided to enlist in the Air National Guard back in July. I've wanted to serve in the military, and the Air National Guard was a way that I could do that and still be in school. I won't be called up and have to leave school; I will just have my one weekend a month duty and then during the rest of the month, I'll just be a student in college. I will also work the two weeks during the summer. I can serve in the military and still be a student; and after I graduate from college I can either go full-time into the military or take my experience elsewhere.

Spartana: What have you done to prepare yourself for the Air National Guard?

Amberg: One weekend a month, the Wing has a drill out at the base. High school students have what is called the Student Flight program. The first couple of drills are mostly paperwork and processing, like getting your military ID and all of your information documented. After that, up until the time you leave for basic training, you'll be doing things like getting affiliated with military rankings and getting to know what basic training is going to be like. It just makes the transition from civilian life into military life a little bit smoother. My first drill will be during weekend of December 6 and 7.

Spartana: How has this affected your personal or student life? Is it a relief to finally have your future planned?

Amberg: My personal life has not really been affected yet, but when I leave for basic training in September it will definitely change my life. For about eight months I will be moving from Basic, to Tech School to my seasoning days. I won't really have much contact with family and friends except for coming home for Christmas. Thinking about life after high school was really stressful up to the point that I enlisted. While I know anything can change, getting my plans put into action makes life a lot less stressful. I wouldn't say that I have my future planned, but I at least know the next step I need to take.

Spartana: How does your family feel about your enlistment?

Amberg: They're very supportive. I am the first person in my immediate family to serve in the military, so it will be a change for all of us. My grandfather served in the Army Reserves until 1965. Both my mother and father have been very supportive of my decisions.

Spartana: What was the final factor that made you decide to ultimately enlist?

Amberg: There wasn't one distinct moment; it was more of an accumulation of many things. My friend, Kyle Luithly (12), who will be attending the Air Force Academy next year, was an influence. His father is a Colonel in the Air Force and is also the Vice Wing Commander of the 122nd Air Wing, and I had been talking to him over the summer. I contacted one of the recruiters at the base and got some further information about the Air Guard.

Spartana: Would you say that Colonel Luithly was an influence on you?

Amberg: Yes, definitely. Colonel Luithly was the one who motivated me to act on all of the plans that I had made. Over the summer we talked about the possibility of joining the Air Guard as a way for me to serve, and I am extremely grateful for his interest in me.

Spartana: Overall, what are your goals and fears as you go into the Air National Guard?

Amberg: As clichéd as it may sound, I desire to serve my country. I believe that every American citizen has a responsibility to serve, and I have chosen to serve in the armed forces. My goal in joining the Air Guard is to hold my position to the best of my ability and use the skills that God has blessed me with.

In regard to my fears, Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson said: "Keep your fears to yourself, but share your inspiration with others." The fears or anxieties I have, or may have in the future, I have given over to God. He has called me to cast all of my fears on Him, because He is more than able and willing to bear them for me out of enduring loyalty (1 Peter 5:7).

"...I desire to serve my country. I believe that every American citizen has a responsibility to serve, and I have chosen to serve mine in the armed forces."

MATTHEW AMBERG (12)
Enlisted in Air National Guard

SPORTS

students support various area minor league athletic teams, 7a

page 7a
issue 7 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Mariah Kiefer

Komets Hockey Team

Wrestling

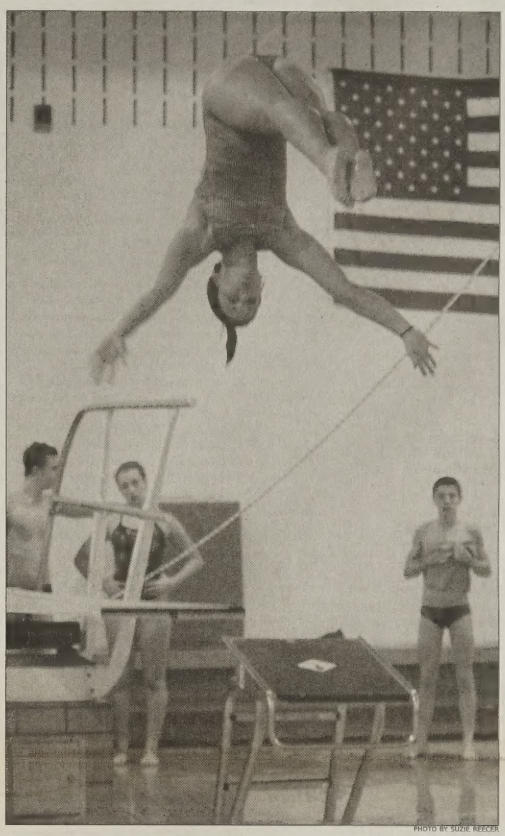


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECES

Under observation by fellow divers, Mariah Kiefer (12) perfects one of her dives.

IN STEP WITH THE DIVING TEAM

While most dive teams are generally small, the dive team has a unusually large number of athletes this year. The team consists of 7 girls and 5 boys. Even with 12 members, each diver does 50-60 entries per practice. Coach Jill Eakright, who started the diving program, has been coaching for 14 years. Since her arrival, she has sent at least one diver to the state finals every year.

RISING TO THE OCCASION

New additions to dive team motivate upperclassmen

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

As the dive team prepares for their season, they have experienced a growth unseen in past years. Adding four or five members would be nothing new, but the amount of members added this year is rare. The dive team this year has grown to three times the amount of members that were on the team last year. Having such a big team is a concept that Mariah Kiefer (12) is unfamiliar with but is pleased by.

"To have so many divers is amazing," Kiefer said. "Although most of the divers are new and this is their first or second year diving, they are doing extremely well. It gives our team that extra push during practice that we need. They all work so hard during practice."

> "To have so many divers is amazing ... It gives our team that extra push during practice that we need."
> **MARIAH KIEFER (12)**
> Diver

With practices five times a week that include two morning sessions, members of the dive team have to venture out in the early hours of the morning, just like the swim team.

"At first, morning practices are overwhelming, especially because we have to swim for ten minutes," Micah Spurgeon (10) said, "but after we get on the boards it feels the same as afternoon practices."

During a typical meet, which is either before a swim meet or after the 50-meter freestyle for swimmers, the team competes with six different dives. In big meets, such as conference and sectionals, divers will go to the boards 11 times, but not every member of the team will compete. To remain concentrated during meets, teammates follow a certain tradition.

"The dive team has the tradition before each dive to eat an animal cracker," Spurgeon said. "I think this helps calm our nerves to really focus on the parts of our next dive."

With six different dives, there is enough down time for each member to relax and get in concentration mode by the pool for which Spurgeon and Kiefer employ similar strategies.

"For me, getting into that concentration mode is challenging because I get nervous between each dive and I feel the need to talk and move around," Spurgeon said. "To overcome this I usually sit under the heat lamps wrapped in a towel listening to my iPod."

Kiefer's routine is almost identical to that of her teammate.

"My routine consists of listening to my iPod, trying to get my self ready for my dive," Kiefer said. "Along with visualizing my dive, I picture myself doing the dive perfect so I feel better before I go."

Kiefer believes the future is bright for the dive team, with all the freshman and sophomores who are involved this year.

"The amount of people will help the dive team in the future with being able to grow into a stronger team," Kiefer said.

With all the new members, the dive team will concentrate to be successful on the boards this season. The future looks bright with the experience up and coming divers will gain this season, along with the continued growth of the sport. With the help of the experienced members, success for this young team could be just an animal cracker away.

Athletes endure a different kind of marathon

What does it take to camp out in sub-freezing temperatures for 13 hours with only Nutter Butters and Oreos to eat, little to no sleep and one single materialistic object on one's mind? It takes willpower, determination and absolute and utter insanity.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

For Kyle Beutler (12), Patrick Veerkamp (12) and Chuckie Weaver (12), their willpower, determination and utter insanity led them to set up a tent at 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day outside of the Best Buy at Apple Glen Crossing in order to take advantage of the "Black Friday" sales the following day.

"My mom wanted a new television and I figured we couldn't afford one without a sweet deal," Beutler said. "I saw that Best Buy was having a door buster and I figured [camping out] was the least I could do after putting my parents through hell for 365 days a year."

Prior to the all night camp out marathon, Beutler, Veerkamp and Weaver had informational meetings to get everything figured out so the night could run smoothly. Research was done to see what sales were happening, what products were available and what time the doors opened. Layers of winter clothing were dusted off out of the closet, bags of delicious snack food were packed and a small tent was boxed up and ready to take to the cold wintery sidewalk of Best Buy.

"We had enough food to last us the night," Veerkamp said. "Even though the Ritz Bits and Oreos got old after a while, we were able to walk over to Wal-Mart to get warm and get some food. Also, Mrs. Hirschy was able to bring us some much-needed hot chocolate, even though she promised us a pizza."

However, around 10:45 p.m., Weaver got sick and had to drop out of the monumental bargain shopping mission.

"If I didn't get sick, I would have definitely stayed to get the bargain I was looking for," Weaver said. "I was very disappointed to not finish."

With Weaver home sick, the other members could have decided to throw in the towel as well, but their morale was steadfast.

"Chuckie getting sick really didn't affect the morale of Kyle and I," Veerkamp said. "We actually had more room in the tent. It would have been nice if he finished this feat with us, though."

With one member gone and about seven hours left before the doors opened, Beutler and Veerkamp resorted to odd and somewhat disturbing methods to staying occupied and warm in the dropping temperatures of the night.

"We had originally planned to have a portable DVD player and a few space heaters for the tent," Beutler said. "However, we ended up with only each other. To pass the time, we prank called my girlfriend and, due to the small tent space, semi-cuddled to keep warm."

At 5 a.m., the doors of the Best Buy unlocked and the rush was on. Beutler purchased a 32-inch flat screen television while Veerkamp purchased a computer-printer combo. Their bargain shopping was completed and the mission was accomplished.

All three of these determined shoppers are athletes who knew that the journey for competitive low prices would be one to remember. Beutler, a football player and track runner, along with Veerkamp and Weaver, both baseball players, channeled the characteristics of all great athletes and used willpower, determination and a bit of insanity to get the job done. Would they do it again?

"In a heartbeat," Beutler said. "Although I would probably arrive to the Best Buy later than 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving day."

I would suggest a bigger tent as well.

Minor league teams brings community together

BY ANDREW WEISS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

While some students spend their weekends at the local movie theaters, others spend their time soaking up sporting events in the nation's top minor league sports city. Whether it is the Komets in the fall and winter, the Mad Ants in the winter or the new Tin Caps in the upcoming summer, almost every high school student gravitates towards one team or another.

"I really think everyone has a favorite Fort Wayne sports team [at Homestead] that they enjoying seeing play," Casey Spurgeon (11) said. "I don't know about the girls, but at least the guys at our school do."

There is very little doubt that the school is populated with Komet fans. The Komets, a team that ranks highest in overall attendance over all North American minor league hockey teams, cater to high school students' athletic entertainment needs. Unlike other teams in the league, the Komets have more than two-thirds of their home games on the weekends so students do not have to worry about staying out on a school night to go see them play.

"In my opinion, it's so much easier for a high school student to frequently attend a [Komets] game with their friends than any other Fort Wayne team because of [the team's] schedule," Ryley Myers (11) said, who attends almost one game a weekend with friends.

Along with weekend games, the team also passes out free items such as T-shirts which high school students take advantage of.

Not to be outdone, the Mad Ants offer a cheaper option than the Komets for high school students for their weekday and weekend games.

"I really like their product because it involves a lot of fast breaks and they had a pretty good team last year," Avery Collins said (10) said.

Last season, Earl Calloway, a former Indiana University basketball player played for the team.

"I had front row seats for a couple of the games and got to talk to [Calloway] during a couple of games," Collins said. "It was kind of cool seeing and talking to him in person because he played for the Hoosiers the year before."

This upcoming season there will be a new team name playing baseball in Fort Wayne. The Fort Wayne Tin Caps, originally the Wizards, will be playing downtown and will add to the list of options for students to attend during the spring and summer. While some students dislike the new team name, former Wizards fans will continue to attend games.

CITY SQUADS

Currently, Fort Wayne is home to five minor league sports teams. Fans can watch the Komets, Fever, Freedom, Tin Caps and Mad Ants throughout the year.

"I personally don't like the new team name," Cody O'Neal (11) said. "I applaud their originality, but the actual name of the team won't matter whether I attend games next year or not."

Another reason why high school students enjoy both the Mad Ants and the Wizards is that the two are considered developmental teams, which means that they are affiliated with a professional sports team that some of the players will one day play for.

"It was kind of cool seeing Prince Fielder play against the Wizards a couple years ago," O'Neal said. "I hope there will be more players that I can say that I saw play in the minor leagues before they made it to the show."

Whether students and teachers attend games to hang out with friends, or other reasons, people agree that the games are a good time.

"While the game itself is fun to watch, I really enjoy that atmosphere [at the Komets games]," Karen Hirschy, business teacher, said. "There's really nothing like it."

snow DAZE

Writers concoct flurry of snow day routines

The alarm goes off. The day starts like any other day, with students showering, eating breakfast and finishing last-minute homework. Much to their dismay, students have already begun their morning routine and realize far too late that school is canceled due to snow. Taking advantage of this unexpected break requires time and planning if students want to have a spectacular snow day. Personality directly affects the day's activities. Here's a plan for how to make the best of a snow day.

Idle Icicles

Turn off that alarm and sleep in as late as possible. Ignore mom nagging about shoveling the driveway, siblings who want to play in the snow or friends asking about plans. After waking up later than school normally gets out, do not bother getting dressed. Remain in comfortable pajamas and put on some fuzzy socks.

Get some hot chocolate, the remote and a blanket and curl up on the couch. Around 1 or 2 p.m. soap operas are usually on, as well as other boring daytime reruns. Opt for talk shows to offer more entertainment and laughs.

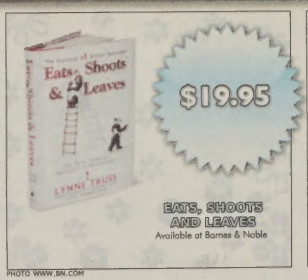
During commercial breaks, check Facebook notifications and leave obnoxious messages for friends who are still in school. Grab popcorn, refill the hot chocolate mug and plop back on the couch. Remain there until mom calls for dinner that evening. Congratulations on a day well wasted.

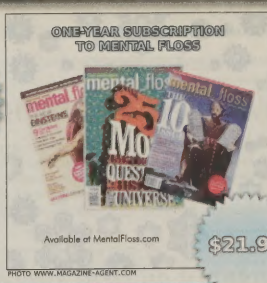
Winter Worker Bee

Wake up at the usual time and follow the normal routine. Watch generic morning news program while enjoying a relaxing breakfast. Then, at 7 a.m., it is time to hit the books.

Start off with something easy. That AP composition paper is not going to write itself. Since there is so much extra time, feel free to take periodic breaks to snack and refresh the mind. After working continuously for two hours on the same essay, move on to Anatomy. Flip through flashcards or create a song to remember the bones of the human body. Break for lunch, but quickly return to studying.

Once lunch has been devoured, begin reading David Copperfield. Take some breaks from reading to do the occasional calculus problem or physics question. Around 3 or 4 p.m., when the homework session would typically begin, all of the work should be finished. Spend the rest of the evening reading another novel that was not assigned by a teacher.





Social Snowflakes

Sleep in an hour or two later than normal. Spend time making and eating a hearty breakfast—strength will be needed to make it through the day's activities. Call friends to set up plans and a place to meet for outdoor fun.

Begin the snow day festivities by building a snow fort in preparation for a snowball fight. The fort should hold and block everyone so that when the snowballs start to fly, there's a good place to hide. Snowballs are best made using wetter snow, which compacts well and packs a harder punch than its powdery cohorts. After the snowball fight, make a snowman. It needs to have a button nose and a scarf to be complete. Make snow angels and then head inside for hot chocolate.

Spend the rest of the day hanging out with friends indoors. Have a movie marathon or play board games at home. If the roads are safe enough, drive to the mall and take advantage of the short lines. Head back home when it starts to get dark and begin hoping for a cancelation

alternate SCHEDULE

Administrators reflect on their snow day routines

assistant principal

"If I did not have to work, the 'perfect day' would consist of staying in my pajamas until noon, watching movies and having a fire in the fireplace... then building a snowman and going sledding with my grandson."

student dean

"In the event that we have a snow day, I try to spend some time with my boys (three years and 17 months old). Time permitting, I will check up on emails from work and complete some school work of my own."

athletic director

"On snow days, administrators work. I am usually able to get a lot of 'paperwork' accomplished on a snow day. It would be nice to be at home with my kids, playing in the snow, but that doesn't usually happen."

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 8 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Friday, December 19, 2008

BRIEFS

FIRST SEMESTER GRADES
At the end of the first nine weeks of this school year, the administration decided not to distribute report cards, but rather to encourage the use of Powerschool. Though Powerschool is a useful tool for teachers, parents and students, report cards are not yet obsolete because physical report cards for the first semester will be distributed on Jan. 22, 2009.

JCL GIFT WRAPPING
Junior Classical League members are wrapping gifts at Barnes and Noble in the weeks leading up to the holidays. Last-minute shoppers can drop off their to-be-wrapped gifts and pick them up after they are finished shopping. The Latin club has found this to be a successful fundraising opportunity in prior years and hopes for similar results this year. Their services are free, but donations are accepted.

TEACHER NOMINATIONS
The Journal Gazette is accepting nominations for their section devoted to spotlighting teachers. Such entries should include how the teacher has made a positive impact in a student's life, whether they are a fellow teacher, a student, a parent or any relevant acquaintance. More information on how to submit nominations can be found on the Homestead website.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Speed Bump Removal
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Left and Write, Ed Board, Reaction to Obama's Cabinet Picks
PAGE 4A, Life: Breakfast Crunch, Sledding, Ice Skating
PAGE 5A, Life: Show Choir Cookie Walk, Making 2009 Count, Megan Meyer at Fort Wayne Holiday Pops Concert
PAGE 6A, Sports: Student Section, Winter Break Workouts, Girls' Basketball
PAGE 7A, Sports: Demands of Wrestling, Profile: Zach Terrell, Full Court Press
PAGE 8A, Feature: All Downhill From Here

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

New director. Altered curriculum. Scenes nixed.

Stage Right?

Students address drama department transition

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

As months of painstaking practice reach their zenith on opening night, Homestead's intrepid thespians survey the audience in search of friends and family members. However, as the performers scan the spectators, they may notice a greater number of empty seats in the auditorium than in past years. The actors are also likely to be aware of the altered drama curriculum and the exclusion of the annual Winter Scenes.

"Most curriculums are tweaked yearly; thus, the changing of curriculum is a reflection of students' needs," Victoria Malooley, director of drama, said.

In past years, the drama department has staged many performances, including the fall play, the Winter Scenes, the spring musical and the Spring Scenes. However, with a recent transfer of leadership and the omission of the seasonal scenes, drama enthusiasts have begun to wonder why the shows were eliminated.

"In order for any theater program to survive, you have to have a solid core," Malooley said. "This means putting out a great fall and spring show. In coming years, I will add back the scenes… Although the theater program may have been a bit neglected, it takes time to build it back up. This cannot be done by throwing everything back in at once."

Drama Shift, continued on 2a

"...when students were offered to do mediocre high school dramas when they were capable of so much more, they didn't want to participate."

SARAH SHELEY (11)
Actress

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

A Dramatic History

NOV. 2008:	You Can't Take it With You
MAY 2008:	The Pajama Game
NOV. 2007:	Night of January 16th
MAY 2007:	Crazy For You
NOV. 2006:	Arsenic and Old Lace
MAY 2006:	Cabaret
NOV. 2005:	The Mouse That Roared
MAY 2005:	Godspell
NOV. 2004:	Jack the Ripper

We the People units nab fifth

Class clinches highest score ever for school at Indianapolis contest

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

Putting months of practice and preparation to ultimate test, the "We the People" class traveled to Indianapolis to compete in the annual state competition on Monday, December 16. Placing fifth out of twelve competing schools and receiving the highest cumulative score of any Homestead team ever, the six units performed well, effectively presenting their assigned topics for a panel of well-trained judges in the simulated congressional hearing.

"I think finishing fifth in the Indiana state finals is a really good accomplishment," Keith Potter, "We the People" instructor and government teacher, said. "Everyone did a great job."

After claiming the district competition title for the twelfth year in a row, the team worked meticulously to prepare for the state competition. Within the class, students were divided into six units, outlining the six chapters of the government curriculum. Comprised of three or four students each, the units worked diligently to compose answers to the three questions they were assigned over their chapter. After extensive research, each unit complied their responses in the form of three four-minute essays that they took turns reading to the judges. Along with the completion of the three comprehensive essays, students also prepared themselves to respond to the judges' eight-minute open forum questioning that followed the recitation of their essay.

At the competition, teams were separated according to their schools into specified judging rooms. Each unit

We the People, continued on 2a

{HAVING THEIR SAY}

PHOTO BY M. DISTLER

"It makes me think outside the box about government issues. You just don't learn the material, you get to put it into action."

CARYN GARTON (11)
We the People Participant

ISTEP+ scores dip for district

'A lot of work' to be done in reaction

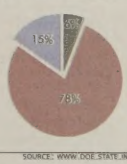
BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

Winter break, school closings and holidays usually come to the minds of students this time of year. However, winter carries an entirely different meaning to the staff members at Southwest Allen County Schools: ISTEP scores are in. As many know, ISTEP is the test that is taken during the early months of the school year to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the material they have been taught. Unfortunately, this year's scores provided little good news, declining in nearly every category. While the passing percentage for sophomores only dropped two percent in English/Language Arts and one

ISTEP, continued on 2a

SHADES OF GRADES

This past fall, Indiana's statewide test was administered to 550 sophomores.



- Pass+
- Pass
- Below Passing

SOURCE: WWW.DOE.STATE.IN.US

Students to greet final exams following Winter Break

Late school year start forces first semester tests into January

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

The countdown is over, and winter break is finally here. Students are busy gearing up for two weeks of friends, family and ever-coveted free time. However, as they are cozying up by the fire with a glass of eggnog, it will not be visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads. Instead, students will be dizzying themselves over their first semester final exams.

Finals will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 14, Thursday, Jan. 15, and Friday, Jan. 16. Tests in periods one and three will be held on Wednesday, periods three, four and six will be held on Thursday and periods five and seven will conclude the week on Friday. Each exam is approximately 80 minutes long.

This year, finals have been changed back to their traditional format of occurring after break, as opposed to being held the week before break last year.

"I can only remember one other time where finals were before break," Dianne Moake, Assistant Principal, said. "The school calendar hasn't allowed us to any other time."

Because school began later this year than in the 2007-2008 school year, there are just not enough days before winter break to fit in finals prior to the two-week leave of absence.

"If we don't have close to the same amount of days in each semester, then you won't get the same amount of learning for semester courses," Moake said.

One consistency that remains from last year

Winter Break, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Students brave the December cold as they trek to the junior parking lot during the last school week of 2008.

FLURRY of FELLOWSHIP

Spartans lend a hand for winter clothing drive sponsored by senator

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Joining forces with the Catholic Charities, the Richard G. Lugar Northeast Indiana Community Service Center sponsored a winter clothing drive from Dec. 1 to Dec. 18. This drive raised money for the Lugar Helping Hands program, and collected blankets, hats, scarves, mittens, coats and gloves for the less fortunate who needed warm attire for the cold winter ahead.

PHOTO LUGAR.SENATE.GOV

According to the Northeast Indiana Community Service Center, the mission of the Senator Richard G. Lugar Community Service Center was to assist residents of Northeast Indiana with access to programs, benefits and resources of the Federal government. In addition, they fostered outreach initiatives and community partnerships through food drives, health screenings, volunteer opportunities, education and literacy programs and more.

Sen. Dick Lugar of Indiana was excited to be partners with the Catholic Charities. His main objective was to help out those in need in Indiana.

"I am pleased to partner with the Catholic Charities for this winter clothing drive," Lugar said. "These donations will make a difference in the lives of Hoosiers in Northeast Indiana

Lugar, continued on 2a

TEMPORARY RELIEF: speed bumps

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

With winter weather wreaking havoc on the senior parking lot, the speed bumps that were added to slow traffic in the lot earlier this year were removed. Although they effectively lowered students' speed in the fall, the bumps were considered a hazard once the roads turned icy and snowy. Nevertheless, at the conclusion of winter and the beginning of spring, the precautionary speed bumps will be reinstalled, once again restricting students from exhibiting dangerous driving techniques.

LUGAR
CONTINUED FROM 1A

this winter."

On Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the drive was held during "A Holiday Celebration" at Covington Plaza. People donated clothing while holiday activities were held at the Lugar Community Service Center.

Because Lugar's office is always on the lookout for extra help, many Homestead students volunteer there. At the Service Center, they are occupied with a variety of projects.

"I do a lot of random things there; anything they need help with, really," Allie Quintano (11) said. "I have installed keyboard trays under their desks, made ornaments, helped ice and serve cookies during the Christmas festival for the community, and during the spring, I will be helping plan a tree-planting event on Arbor Day."

> "I am amazed with all that goes on at the center. I have been involved with Fort-4-Fitness, the book drive, a back to school event, a Halloween outreach event and other various projects. This semester, I volunteerèd two days a week, and most days I came in not sure what I was going to have the opportunity to work on."
>
> **TORI ROWE (12)**
> Lugar Office Volunteer

Not only do these students help out by performing random chores at the Service Center, but they also work at various charities and events that help the children and the less fortunate.

"I like the environment of working at the Senator's office," Tori Rowe (12) said. "I am amazed with all that goes on at the center. I have been involved with Fort-4-Fitness, the book drive, a back to school event, a Halloween outreach event and other various projects. This semester I volunteered two days a week, and most days I came in not sure of what I was going to have the opportunity to work on."

However, although many choose to volunteer their time, other students helped out by simply donating clothing. The Service Center is also collecting gently used preschool through fifth grade level books that are essential for students at local schools. The books will be collected at Sen. Lugar's office until Jan. 9.

DRAMA SHIFT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

Although theater has formerly enjoyed illustrious acknowledgment at Homestead, it is easy to detect a recent decline of interest in the dramatic arts.

"There has most certainly been a decline in the drama department," Sarah Sheley (11), an actress and theater enthusiast, said. "After [Ed] Koczergo left, the drama department sank fast. He was an amazing director, and the fact that we could put on such great productions shows just how much raw talent we have. The next director just didn't know how to harness it, so when students were offered to do mediocre high school dramas when they were capable of so much more, they didn't want to participate."

"Because we had our last director for only two years and are now transitioning to another, it's been hard for people to grow accustomed to the way the new director runs things. Therefore they grow uninterested in drama," Jenna Clark (12), an actress and drama devotee, said.

Nevertheless, even with dwindling interest and shuffling leadership, there is still hope for the theater department.

"The only hope for drama is good productions," Sheley said. "If good shows are put on, more people will come to see them, and hopefully people will be inspired to participate."

With a good director and excellent dramatists, all the program will have to do is find an appropriate way to market their shows, portraying the true art of theater.

"I think that a good way to promote theater is to show clips on the video announcements and show a positive attitude toward theater arts," Clark said. "Today, with all of the new technology and movies, theater is in the back of everyone's mind. What they don't know is that a play is not only characters and sets, but a way to express oneself as a different person, being able to escape one's life and enter someone else's for awhile. Being able to create an identity all on one's own according to the life of the character is one of my favorite parts of being in a production. When all the characters in a cast do this, the audience can engage themselves in their lives and believe that all that has happened is true."

BROAD VIEW

According to a press release issued by the Indiana Department of Education on Dec. 4:

"The 2008 Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) results, released today by Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed, showed overall pass rates declined slightly compared to last year. Statewide 2008 pass rates across all grades tested were approximately 71 percent in English/language arts, 74 percent in math and 60 percent in science."

SOURCE WWW.DOE.IN.GOV

WINTER BREAK
CONTINUED FROM 1A

is the half day of school given to students after the conclusion of finals on Friday, wherein the dismissal bell of freedom will ring at 10:50 a.m.

However, one half day off of school is forgotten amongst students who are too busy focusing on cramming a semester's worth of material into their brains to look ahead to the weekend.

Because finals make up a large percentage of the semester grade, students often rely on these tests to boost their grade or keep their grade from falling. While this means that studying for finals is imperative, many students are not please that they will be studying over their winter break.

"I hate that we have finals after break. Our vacation is basically gone because we have to study for finals the whole time," Anuj Khemka (10) said.

Khemka is not the only student who feels that while studying is necessary to do well on finals, having to study over the winter break will force students to keep working, leaving little time to truly take a break and relax.

"With finals to think about, it sucks because you can't have a true break," Nicole Musi (11) said. "The way they did finals last year was better because then we could really relax over break without having to worry about studying."

While many students are worried about taking finals with the two-week break beforehand, some students believe that having finals before break like last year would not relieve the anxiety that these tests inevitably bring.

"I think that last year it was stressful to have so many finals to think about and so little time," Tess Anglin (10) said. "The teachers and students were both really pressed for time to review. But this year won't be much better I think. Honestly, no students are going to study over their winter break. It is a break after all, and so I think that it will result in a one week re-teach the whole first semester and hope for the best."

Whenever they occur, finals are finals, and the only way to prepare for them is to study in advance, whether it is before, during or after break.

PHOTOS BY SEN MORRELL

A light snow begins to fall as Brandon Crandall (11) and Jordyn Weber (11) leave school en route to the junior lot.

ISTEP
CONTINUED FROM 1A

I percent in Mathematics, the passing percentages for elementary school students were affected more notably. Even so, two percent less students passing the exams on a high school level is a significant figure that shows there is much work ahead for SACS teachers and staff.

"The drop in ISTEP scores means we have a lot of work ahead of ourselves," assistant principal Dianne Moake said. "First, we need to determine how to better help students, and then we need to look at finding the right strategies for individual students."

Along with staff members, students have also begun to recognize the effects of the drop in ISTEP scores, realizing that they too need to step-up.

"I think the staff needs to step it up, and not just pound information into students' heads," Nathan Kazman (10) said. "They should teach students how [the material] applies to life."

Although ISTEP can be a useful tool because it assesses the amount of information students are learning in school, it is hard to capture the broad spectrum of student learning in one test.

"You can't use any one test to determine how well a student is learning," Moake said. "You have to look at multiple assessments and how they're doing daily before you can really determine how a students doing because [students] could be sick the day [they] take ISTEP... It's a snapshot for that moment in time."

Along with unavoidable factors like illness, there are various possible reasons for why the passing percentages were so low. Students could have been distracted by what they were going to do after school or simply not have performed to their full ability.

"I think that students just weren't trying this year at all in ISTEP," Daniel Kiefer (11) said. "They probably could have had National Honors Society students help them out to improve their scores."

The National Honors Society offers tutor sessions after school. However, beyond the need for one-on-one assistance, the staff at Homestead has been working with the data to figure other chief reasons for the drop in scores.

"I am not sure why the ISTEP scores were so low," Moake said. "We're trying to look through the data to determine what the cause is, but we haven't gotten there yet."

One explanation may lie in students' opinions on ISTEP, which vary greatly. While some think it is beneficial because they have shorter class periods and get no homework, others find it less than exciting to spend half the day taking a standardized test.

"I kind of dread taking the ISTEP test every year," Kazman said. "I think they could work on that. I don't like having to remember all of the information that really doesn't have a lot to do with important things in life."

Hopefully, if more students work diligently on the test and teachers focus on making the material applicable to real life scenarios, the ISTEP scores will make a full recovery.

WRITE A LETTER. BARE YOUR SOLE.
WE PROMISE WE WON'T DODGE IT.
thespartana@gmail.com
260.431.2261

WE THE PEOPLE
CONTINUED FROM 1A

then proceeded to present in their respective room, competing against students from other schools who were assigned their same unit. However, despite the competitive nature of the event, most students seemed to agree that the biggest rewards were the friendships they made and the knowledge they acquired.

"It helped me meet new friends," Rafal Swiatkowski (11) said.

Along with meeting many new acquaintances, members of the "We the People" team also found value in the opportunity to expand their horizons while conquering fears of public speaking.

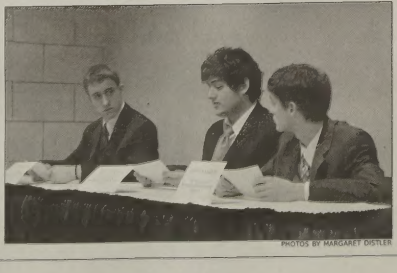
"It gave me a chance to develop public speaking skills while learning about the Constitution," Sam Chapman (12) said.

Providing students with a plethora of information about the United States government and its evolution, "We the People" built a strong foundation for students who are interested in pursuing a political career.

"It provides a good experience for us to be involved in government when we get older," Joy Tuhan (11) said.

Overall, students agree that the wealth of historical material acquired in the duration of the class and competition has been very beneficial to their knowledge of current events and politics.

"It makes me think outside the box about government issues," Caryn Garton (11) said. "You don't just learn the material, you get to put it into action."



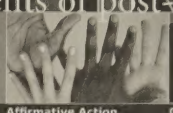
PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Above: Unit 3 members Beth Gigler (12) and Sam Chapman (12) listen closely as Tara Ettensohn (12) presents the prepared answer during the afternoon round of judging. Left: Dustin Durnell (11), Joey DeRosa (11) and Andy Franklin (11) consult each other before pitching their argument to the judges.

OPINION

ed board analyze benefits of post-winter break exam schedule, 3a

page 3a
issue 8 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814


Affirmative Action

Obama's Cabinet

Semester Finals

Friday, December 19, 2008

LEFT AND WRITE | Affirmative Action: Is it atonement or racism?

No other alternative to right past wrongs

BY CELIA GRUNDMAN
GUEST WRITER

Affirmative action helps level the playing field for minorities who have long suffered discrimination, as there is currently no feasible alternative. This process fosters diversity and atones for discrimination that could impede opportunities for minorities.

A new type of affirmative action has arisen: giving preference based on income, not race. This new method of assisting students solves a slew of issues associated with its predecessor.

Diversity is maintained to nearly the same degree since many blacks, Latinos, and American Indians do live in poverty and have not received an education equivalent to that of their wealthier peers. Class as a basis for financially assisting students removes the stigma of race and allegations of reverse discrimination.

While some deem the practice of giving preference to lower incomes and not to merit faulty, there is very little critique of the preference given to legacies, athletes and students within a university's state.

Consider this: if two students have equal grades and one has overcome difficult circumstances while the other has lived a life of privilege, which is more deserving?

President-elect Barack Obama has indicated that he may shift the basis of affirmative action from race to class disparities.

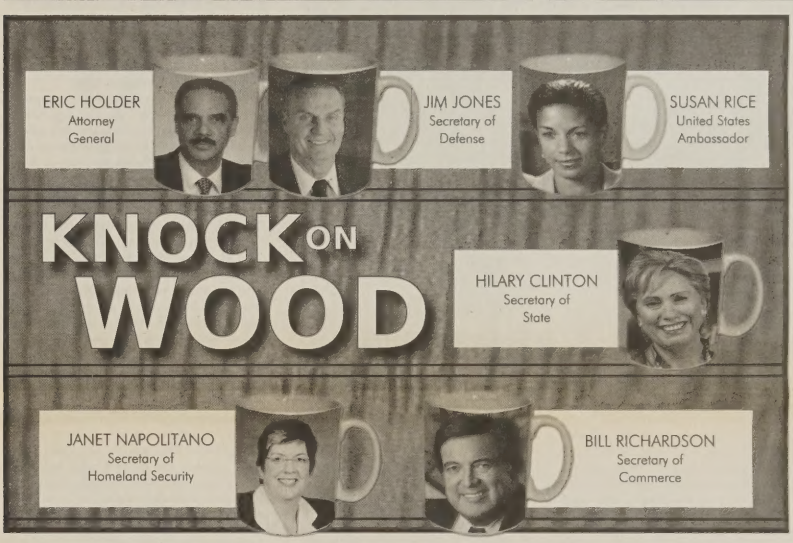
Attempts at reparation further racial rift

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

The U.S. Constitution requires government to ensure its citizens an equality of opportunity. Affirmative action is a violation of this sacred principle and a product of the disease of white guilt. A kaleidoscope of punitive colors our perspective of American accomplishments, equating to a debilitating, not to mention unconstitutional, feeling of guilt – a feeling which often takes the form of reparations. Aside from the practical flaws in the concept – when does it end? How can we quantify it? – the mere idea of reparations worsens the problem we wish to solve. It fosters the racial tension that we yearn to eliminate and does nothing to progress a racially blind society.

It also belittles the benefactors. Providing advantages, financial or otherwise, to a student based solely on their race is to say that race is essentially incapable, even inferior, and that the student cannot succeed based solely on their merits, but requires a leg up on the competition.

If there still exists a valid racially correlated socioeconomic disadvantage, then it is a product of cultures, not of oppression. Our generation is not accountable for the trespasses of our forefathers, but we are responsible for our own mistakes, and affirmative action is one of them.



President-elect Barack Obama stocks his advisory cabinet with suspicious choices

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

We have chosen our Head of State, so let us now see who he has chosen.

As President-elect Barack Obama composes his circle of confidantes, one can begin to predict the actions of the executive branch for the next four years by the agendas of Obama's minions.

First off, Obama has created new positions, enlarging the already bloated bureaucracy. He created the position of "chief technology officer," an office responsible for ensuring the full use of the Internet. He has elevated the U.N. Ambassador position, filled by Susan E. Rice, to cabinet rank. He has even made a position for himself: the office of the president-elect, an office entirely of his own making with arguably more influence than his predecessors.

On a different note, Timothy Geithner, head of the New York Federal Reserve and a key player in the $700B bailout plan, has been appointed Secretary of Treasury. If he is driving current economic policy, how can we expect him to be the change promised?

In addition, Robert Gates, a member of Bush's cabinet, will retain his position as Secretary of Defense under the Obama presidency. For a candidate who emphasized changing American politics, Obama has made suspicious selections, choosing politicians whose reputations and experience would suggest his campaign promises might just have been empty rhetoric and a manipulation of the American public.

Hillary Clinton will be his Secretary of State. For almost two years, it was Obama's mission to expose the flaws in her policies, inabilities as a politician and the indignities of her record. But come November, she has suddenly become more than fit for the highest-ranking cabinet secretary position in his administration. It is a testament to the sad truth in politics: the candidate you vote for bears almost no resemblance to the man you see in office, no matter the party. Their campaign promises and mudslinging comments are all means supposedly justifying the end.

> "He entrusts our foreign policy in Clinton and seeks the continued advice of a Senator who he once faulted as an obstacle to change and progress."
>
> **ASHLEY HEATH**
> Opinion Editor

Obama's hypocrisy paired with Clinton's ineligibility makes her a contemptible appointee. Article I, section 6 of the U.S. Constitution states that, "No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time." In other words, if Congress has voted to increase the salary of a position in government, then no member of Congress who served during the time that measure was passed can be appointed to fill that office until his or her term is over. In January of 2008, an executive order signed during Hillary Clinton's current term in the Senate did just that, increasing the pay for the Secretary of State position. Therefore, under Obama's oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, he cannot appoint Senator Clinton to the position of Secretary of State. Yet he entrusts our foreign policy in Clinton and seeks the continued advice of a Senator who he once faulted as an obstacle to change and progress.

"I think that part of what people are looking for right now is someone who is going to solve problems and not resort to the same typical politics that we've seen in Washington," Obama said, in specific reference to Senator Clinton.

As the power now shifts from the electors to the elected, we soon realize that the president we voted for is not the president we are getting.

To quote Gandhi, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." Because it sure does not seem like the change we need is going to be coming from an Obama administration.

Ed board: Administration must reconsider timing of first semester final exams

After today, you are free. You have been liberated of cumulative academia: the mundane bubbling in the ScanTron wasteland, the half-hearted recollection of formulas and the 7:49 a.m. cramming of copied study guides. 12 hours from now, you will be sleeping soundly, assured that the next time you set foot on 4310 Homestead Road, it will not only be a new year, but a new semester.

Oh, wait—what's that?—you did not even take a single examination today, let alone during the elapsed week?

It appears you live in reality, where an unforgiving test of mental endurance has been decided upon for students. In two weeks, you will not be embarking on a new journey filled with equal, if not greater, degrees of procrastination and laziness. Instead, you will be continuing an earlier one, culminating in first semester finals on Wednesday, Jan. 14 through Friday, Jan. 16. Sleep soundly with that repulsive task weighing your conscience.

We understand that not everybody takes finals as seriously as they probably should. In fact, we understand that a modest amount of students recognize half days before they do the reason for their brevity. After all, the idea of fine dining at Buffalo Wild Wings is a bit more appealing than worrying about slews of multiple-choice questions.

For the rest of us, though, the results could be catastrophic. The very notion that we could be forgetting vital information with every sip of eggnog is as harrowing as a mid-test graphing calculator battery failure. Try to endure Christmas mass while imagining your G.P.A. plummeting faster than the American symbol for obesity down a dusty chimney. Try lighting the menorah knowing your grades have already been ignited. Such stress was nonexistent last year, when merciful administrators placed exams before Winter Break, a stretch of time when students typically enter a hibernation of all academic consciousness.

Perhaps we are overreacting to a miniscule change in scholastic schedule. What could be the difference between a final exam on Wednesday, Dec. 17 and one on Friday, Jan. 16, the mere equivalent of 12 school days? Do the math, folks; that's one partridge in a pear tree.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL
HALEY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR
ANDREW WEISS

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
ZACH VESSELS

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
MOLLY ZWEIG

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

show choir raises money in cookie walk to pay competition fees, 5a

page 4a
issue 8 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Ice skating | Megan Meyer | Sledding after school

Friday, December 19, 2008

OVER THE HILL

Students gather during winter months to enjoy coveted winter pastime

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
WRITER

It is all downhill this winter for sledding enthusiasts eager to experience the ups and downs of the sport.

Once deemed an activity exclusively for small children and elementary students, sledding is gaining popularity with high school students. Whether it is on delay days, school closings or winter break, students will find time to pull out their sleds and head for the hills.

"All my neighbors—which is about ten little kids—and I sled," Katrina Schreiber (10) said.

"I go with a group of about four friends," Max Dickmeyer (10) said.

Typically students sled near their houses, but other venues with slopes also are available around town.

"I used to go to Orchard Ridge Country Club," Dickmeyer said. "There's a huge hill behind the range that I would go to with my family."

"I mainly [sled] in Bittersweet Lakes," Conner Toennies (10) said.

"There's a big hill behind my house," Ian Johnston (9) said. "It has a pond in the middle and is very steep."

The perfect amount of snow is necessary for the best sled runs. If grass is visible, more snow is needed.

"The snow has to be wet and slick," Toennies said.

Students like to use frozen lakes and rivers in their sledding options, but cautiously. If the ice is thick enough and safe to walk on, it can be used as a great area without much friction, increasing speed.

"We like to slide onto the river," Schreiber said.

Schreiber also likes to create a ramp of snow starting in her driveway to get better air while riding her sled. Building a ramp is a simple way to make any hill more fun and Schreiber is not the only student to have discovered this.

"We build up a launch ramp so [the hill] becomes very steep," Dickmeyer said.

However, the hill is only one component of a great sledding experience. Another sometimes-overlooked element of sledding is the type of sled. With such a wide variety of sleds available, the most important factor is the size of the person using the sled.

In Dickmeyer's opinion, inexpensive flat sleds that are essentially foam boards work better for bigger people than saucers. There are many other options rather than the traditional sleds, and on option is using an inflatable inner tube. The inner tubes are a good idea because they can be used year-round, from swimming in the summer to snow days in the winter.

Some students are finding uses for their sleds beyond the typical custom of sliding down hills. During a snowball fight, Toennies said his sled was a great block from unwanted projectiles.

"We use our sleds as shields," Toennies said.

Sleds are not the only method of sliding down hills in Indiana, as toboggans are another popular winter pastime. Pokagon State Park in Angola is perhaps the best place around Fort Wayne to toboggan, as their track allows speeds of 35 to 40 miles per hour.

"Toboggans are also really good," Dickmeyer said, "but you need a big hill."

Sledding attire also factors into how enjoyable the day will be. Staying warm and dry are two important things to remember, but at the same time, students do not want to be like Randy from A Christmas Story, unable to move under excessive winter clothing.

"Snow pants, boots, coat, gloves and a hat are typical [for sledding]," Dickmeyer said. "It's pretty decent movement-wise unless you're doing extreme stuff."

"I wear lots of socks and snowgear," Schreiber said, noting that "snow-veralls" are her group's attire of choice when they sled.

The bottom line for those who sled is that they just love the rush they get from the activity.

"Students like [sledding] because they're thrill-seeking," Dickmeyer said. "You can go really fast and you don't get hurt," he said, quickly adding, "usually."

SLEDDING TECHNIQUES

1. Spray bottom of sled with cooking spray, like Pam. This helps to make the sled go faster down the hills, but works best with packed snow.

2. Run as fast as possible and then jump high towards the sled. When landing on the sled, move in a forward motion so gravity can assist in attaining maximum speed.

3. Dive into the sled with a flat, forward motion. The jump gives speed when approaching the sled. Finally, push off with feet to propel down the hill.

PHOTO BY HANA SVETLOVICS

Ice skating venues provide fun during cold winter months

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

The winter season has finally appeared amongst the unpredictable weather of Fort Wayne. Soon snow will cover the ground, grumbling students will scrape away ice on their cars and Ugg boots will emerge in a flourish of fur. To some this is a regrettable season, for others it spells out two words: ice skating.

Whether you are an experienced skater or just starting, there are always going to be some questions about ice skating. Popular predicaments include the question of how ice skates work, what the proper attire to wear to a rink is and which rinks in Fort Wayne are the best to skate at.

Ice skates work by creating a very small amount of friction on the ice, melting the ice into a tiny film of water that the skater literally glides on top of, similar to hydroplaning with a car.

Along with this slippery knowledge comes the most embarrassing danger of ice skating: falling. Most of the time recreational skaters will suffer a bruised tailbone and damaged ego, however, there have been some cases of severe head damage due to falling on ice. Ice skating for the first time can be dangerous; always skate with someone, especially on frozen bodies of water.

The McMillen Ice Arena is a great place to learn to skate in Fort Wayne. The rink is located downtown and offers private skating lessons. The Headwaters Park Ice Rink also offers skating lessons, but as the first session has already begun, skaters will have to wait until the second session begins in January. Information on both rinks can be found on the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation website.

"I've never been ice skating before, but I want to try it out this winter," Daniel Hoffman (11) said. "The thing is, I don't really know where to go or anything like that."

Ice skating is an active way to spend an afternoon, and whether out on an indoor rink or on a backyard lake, it is necessary to dress appropriately for the occasion. The key to dressing properly is layers; a long sleeve under shirt and a couple of t-shirts on top is a suggested choice of attire. If it is particularly cold out, top the outfit off with a coat, and never forget to wear a hat and gloves.

When the human body becomes overheated, sweat is supposed to cool it down. However, sweat can and will freeze, so it is crucial to remove layers before the body gets too hot.

Never dress too warmly, however, as falling through the ice is a huge factor when skating on bodies of water. Wearing too much clothing weighs a person down when it becomes soaked in water making it difficult to swim to safety in freezing temperatures. Another safety issue is that of freezing water in general; even experienced skaters have died from falling through ice due to the shock it puts on the human body.

Some general tips if one falls through ice are to control ones breathing, don't thrash around, and keep as much of the body out of the water as possible. Also, when attempting to get out of the water, try to crawl out from the direction you came from.

Fort Wayne offers some great neighborhood additions with lakes prime for ice skating, but keep in mind that ice needs to be at least four inches thick to skate on. Along with the four-inch rule, many additions have different rules on ice skating, so make sure to check around for any signs before skating.

Ice skating is a great recreation to start up at any time, so get out on the ice before it all melts because it is impossible to know when the Fort Wayne weather will revert to warm, sunshiny days.

Students struggle to find time for most important meal of day

Busy teens lack morning jump-start from breakfast, others find eating a necessity before school

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

It is 6:00 a.m. and the annoying buzzer goes off like a maniac on the alarm clock, but somehow there is not quite enough motivation yet to greet the day with a warm smile. After hitting the comforting snooze button for a couple of much needed extra minutes, it is time to fade back off into the dream world until the sound of mother's nagging voice announces that the time has somehow become 7:30 a.m. Frantically reaching for the closest clothes on the messy floor, there is barely time to grab books for school and no time at all to even think about grabbing breakfast before walking out the door.

According to Science News, breakfast contributes significantly to the quality of U.S. diets. The morning meal offers 17 percent of the day's calories along with providing a quarter of the day's recommended intake of dairy foods, 28 percent of the day's recommended intake of fruit, 20 percent of recommended grains and up to 30 percent of the recommended intake of most vitamins and minerals. Although this early meal has been proven to be essential, only about one-third of teens eat in the morning compared to the one in five people over all who do not have breakfast.

"In general, I think that teens just don't have enough time to eat breakfast," Sarah Ali (11) said. "Or maybe they have self-esteem issues and figure that skipping meals will keep or make them thin. There's probably a different explanation for everyone."

It is inevitable for teens to question breakfast's significance in their day and overall health.

"I think I have enough energy whether I eat breakfast or not," Tara Olivero (11) said. "Eating breakfast is nice because then I'm not so hungry during fifth period while waiting for C lunch to come around. But I don't feel that I'm lacking energy because of my breakfast-skipping habit."

Adults have the habit of constantly reminding teens how important breakfast is, yet teens usually tend to sway towards a rebellious and contradictory behavior when it comes to listening to rules or recommendations made by healthy adults.

"It isn't that big of a deal for me personally if I eat breakfast or not," Danielle Doepke (10) said. "I know my dad is always on my case about it, but I don't really care. I'm usually dead all through out school. Maybe I'll wake up for a class period, but most of the time I'm struggling to keep my eyes open. I've tried listening to my parents about eating breakfast, but eating breakfast has never had a noticeable impact on my energy level."

Yet for others it is a necessity to have a hardy meal and start the day off right every morning, regardless of time constraints. Routine also influences the regular breakfast eater; some students do not even ask whether or not they will have breakfast on any specific morning, eating is just a fact of life.

"I eat breakfast everyday no matter how late I wake up," Jasmine Espino-Muniz (11) said. "It's weird but I have to eat bacon, eggs and a waffle each morning or I just don't function. It's weird I know, but I feel incomplete if I don't eat. It's the most important meal of the day for me because it's the start of the day. When I tell my friends what I eat each day, they ask me how I have time. It's simple really, you make it a priority."

PHOTO BY BRIAN GALLAGHER, COURTESY OF THE FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC

Alongside Philharmonic musicians, Megan Meyer (12) sings to a sold out audience at the Fort Wayne Embassy Theater.

popstar

Class Royale member Megan Meyer (12) given opportunity to perform in Philharmonic Holiday Pops Concert Series

BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN
MIRADOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When Megan Meyer (12) sang "All I Want for Christmas is You" on the night of Dec. 13 she had the sickening feeling that she was going to pass out. Performing in front of 2,477 people can have that effect.

As one of the hosts and guest singers during the Philharmonic Holiday Pops Concert Series, Meyer regularly had to sing from one to four solos a performance. In addition to the Mariah Carey single, which is heavy on the high-notes, Meyer's solos included "My Favorite Things", "White Christmas" and "Holy Night". Unfortunately, on December 13, it was not the solo that was making her nervous.

"I am usually not worried before performances," Meyer said. "But I was feeling sick Saturday so I knew I was not going to do well."

She was not kidding. At the end of her solo, Meyer hit the final vibrato, took a graceful bow and smiled all the way backstage to the bathroom, where she fell and passed out. However, not to be phased by a little head trauma, Meyer composed herself, put back on her smile and returned to the stage for the finale, because when they say "the show must go on," they mean it.

"Whenever you mess up, or something happens on stage, you just have to stay in character and continue what you are doing," Meyer said. "Because if you break character even for a moment, people will notice."

An experienced performer, Meyer knows a little about theatre. Her resume includes lead roles in various Civic Theatre productions such as "Once Upon a Mattress" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie". But having never been to a Holiday Pops concert herself, Meyer didn't know what to expect.

> "Whenever you mess up, or something happens on stage, you just have to stay in character and continue what you are doing, because if you break character even for a moment, people will notice."
>
> **MEGAN MEYER (12)**
> Guest Singer for the Philharmonic

"Compared to the Civic Theatre, the Embassy is completely different. It has a bigger stage, a bigger audience and a more expensive ticket price," Meyer said. "So people tend to make more of an effort to show up."

That was clear last Saturday night, when lines of people streamed through the Embassy Theatre's front doors, eager to get into the auditorium to see the first ever sold-out Holiday Pops performance.

Meyer first learned of the Holiday Pops role from her voice teacher, who also happened to be one of the people responsible for carrying out the auditions. The other, Brad Thadhuk, is the conductor for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Meyer recalls the auditions as being relatively painless.

"I just sang three of the songs I already had memorized, which included 'All I Want for Christmas is You, Astonishing and You Could Drive a Person Crazy," Meyer said.

Because of the tight Philharmonic schedule, all of the ensembles involved in the performance–the Children's Choir, the Philharmonic, the Philharmonic Chorus and all of the guest artists–had only two four hour practices to prepare for the show. Besides performances from all four of the groups, the concert also featured a performance from famous soprano Malinda Haslett and a reenactment of the 1897 Virginia O'Hanlon letter to the New York Sun.

For this year's series, there were eleven total concerts, with four of them being held at the Embassy. The others took place in nearby locations such as Rochester, Ligonier, Auburn and Columbia City.

As she looks back on her experience with the philharmonic–the practices, the performances and the passing out–Meyer still thinks that she would do it all over again. After high school, Meyer plans to major in musical theatre at Carnegie-Mellon University, Northwestern University, Syracuse University or the Boston Conservatory.

PHILHARMONIC HOLIDAY POPS SHOW DETAILS

Remaining Performances
Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.
Dec. 20 at 8 p.m.

Ticket Prices
Matinee: $34-$60
Evening: $20-$65

To Buy Tickets
Call: 260.481.0777
Visit: www.fortwaynephilharmonic.com

Making 2009 matter

It's that time of year again. With the upcoming holiday season, I always find myself scrambling on the brink of a New Year to make a "life-altering" resolution. Some choose to make simple adjustments to their lifestyles, like dieting or gossiping less, but I have always wanted my resolution to be something dramatic that will markedly improve the way I live and perceive the world.

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

Unfortunately, in years past I have not been able to find a plausible resolution to satisfy my expectations. The thought of pinpointing a single adjustment that will dictate my life seems so daunting. Therefore, this year, in the spirit of self-evaluation I made a list of the most valuable lessons that I have learned thus far in my high school career – a collection of the top ten goals I hope to reach and retain in the years to come. It may not be traditional, but it just might be the resolution you are searching for too.

Top Ten Ways to Make 2009 Matter

1. Be an active participant in your religious community. In a world of adversity and change, faith is always supportive and steadfast. At some point in your life, it may be your only hope.

2. Learn to accept life as it is rather than as you would like it to be. The truth is the truth whether or not it is convenient, and the best road to recovery is the acceptance of failure, loss and rejection.

3. Don't blow small problems out of proportion. Like high school, life is only as dramatic as you make it. Choose your battles wisely.

4. Realize that karma only works in the life of Earl Hickey. In the real world, good deeds often go unrewarded, and bad deeds are frequently left unpunished. Therefore, do not trust life to conform to your expectations. Ultimately, your attitude will be the sole determinant of your satisfaction.

5. Get real. Putting on a false front only robs the world of your unique personality. In the words of esteemed author and educator, Dennis E. Hensley, "Don't settle for being the second best someone else when you can be the first best you."

6. Don't rush time. Take advantage of being young. Remember that you will only be single, childless and free of paying taxes for so long. Cherish every moment.

7. Understand that the smallest gestures, when performed genuinely, reap the most influential impact. Therefore, always acknowledge your acquaintances and show genuine interest in other people. Positive attitudes spread quickly. Be contagious.

8. Do not dwell on all of the "what ifs" in life. Instead, realize that everything that has and will happen to you molds you into the person you were always meant to be. Often, the greatest realizations develop from the deepest devastations.

9. Make yourself known to the right people for the right reasons. Realize that there is no "popular crowd" or "geek squad" in the real world, so don't take personality labels to heart. In the end, you will become the person you have chosen to be no matter what the world thinks of you.

10. Think long term. As you mature, you will begin to differentiate between the things that will always matter in your life and those that never did. Therefore, spend your time and emotions wisely.

Happy Holidays, and here's to great New Year. May all of your resolutions come true.

Show choir sells desserts, raises funds

Final cookie walk takes place tonight during boys' basketball game, profits to go toward competition expenses

BY BRAD ADAMSON
WRTIER

Cookie lovers everywhere are sure to find what their stomachs desire at the Show Choir's Cookie Walk fundraiser during the boy's home basketball game tonight against Carroll. This is the third and final walk of the year. The others were held on Friday, Dec. 5 at the home basketball game against Harding, and Thursday, Dec. 11, during the music department's Winter Concert.

Because it was so successful last year, the show choir organization decided to do it once again this year, selling their baked goods at three different events. The 2008 Cookie Walk is the second time the choirs have held this unique fundraiser. Last year's profits were approximately $600, and this year's profits are sure to be even more.

"It would be nice to make $1000," Paula Jewson, choir parent and Chairperson of the Cookie Walk fundraiser, said.

Delicious, homemade desserts donated by the choir parents will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. There are many different sweets that are baked, including cookies, brownies, chocolate-dipped pretzels, turtle candies and fudge.

"Anything with chocolate seems to be very popular, Debbie Campbell, a parent volunteer for the Cookie Walk fundraiser, said. "We sold out of everything at the first event."

Tables filled with baked goods are positioned outside of the entrance to the main gymnasium at 6 p.m. and torn down after all basketball attendees have left. Choir parents and students volunteer to work at each event, and everyone enjoys selling the homemade sweets.

"Almost everyone that walks past the tables eventually gives into temptation and buys cookies," Haley Campbell (11), Class Royale Show Choir member, said. "Some people walk by and say something about how good everything smells and how they don't need any cookies, only to come back and get some 30 minutes later."

Like any other fundraiser, sales depend solely on how many items the customer buys. Most sales are by the pound. However, purchases less than one pound can be made as well.

"It all depends on how much people want to buy," Jewson said. "We sell the cookies for five dollars per pound."

At the end of the night, if there is an abundance of left overs, prices may be dropped down to three dollars per pound.

Including both co-ed Class Royale and all female Elite, show choir is made up of 86 talented student performers who sing and dance in competitions held around the region. Each choir competes in their own division; nevertheless, everyone in both choirs must audition and be able to sing and dance to a variety of songs performed by a live back-up band, Anonymous Blue.

All of the profits made will be put into the Show Choir's general fund with which many items are bought for the benefit of the choir members. For example, this April, the choir plans to travel to Washington D.C. to compete against schools from across the nation in the FAME competition. Other competitions are also scheduled at local area schools, like Northrop, Norwell, Carroll and Huntington North.

Overall, the main purpose of this fundraiser is to help pay for expenses associated with competitions. The choirs are funded exclusively by the participants, and do not receive any funding from the school; therefore, they rely on these fundraisers to cover costs, like make-up, costumes, music, choreographers, stage equipment, transportation and competition entry fees.

TOP SELLERS

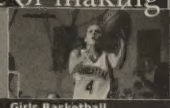
According to Class Royale Member Haley Campbell (11), these have been the fastest selling dessert items at previous cookie walks.

1. Chocolate Chip Cookies
2. Fudge
3. Sugar Cookies
4. Chocolate Covered Pretzels
5. Frosted Sugar Cookies

SPORTS

wrestlers face challenge of making weight before every match, 7a

page 6a
issue 8 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814



Girls Basketball

Zach Terrell Profile

Wrestling Diet Demands

Winter athletes faced with intense practice schedules over break

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

With Winter Break beginning tomorrow, a two-week break from school will be a nice treat for students and teachers alike. However, not everyone will be able to completely take a break from school-related activities. While Spartan athletes will get a break from their rigorous school schedule, their respective practice schedule will not be as kind.

Basketball player Mike Bradley (12) and his teammates will attend at least eight practices during break, including weekends. They also have a tournament at Columbia City on Jan. 2, then a home game against Huntington North on Jan. 3. The hours before those games will include practices everyday, excluding Sundays, Christmas and New Year's Eve.

"In some regards I think it's fair to practice and play over winter break," Bradley said. "I think that athletes need to stay in shape rather than just sit around. However, I also feel that athletes should get some time off because they have been working hard in school and on the court."

If Bradley could make changes to his schedule for practices over break, he would only make minor adjustments.

"If I could change our practice schedule, I would limit the practices to a two hour maximum," Bradley said. "I would like to get rid of weekend practices to have some extra free days to just have fun over the break."

The swimming team has a difficult practice schedule that includes time in and out of the pool for their training. After starting off with a meet on Dec. 20, which will be followed by another meet three days later, they will practice two times a day in the water for a total of three and half hours each day. The Spartan swimmers will be at the natatorium everyday, excluding Sundays and Christmas.

"I think everyone wants a break from school and sports to relax, but if you want to stay in shape, and be the best team possible, you have to practice," Emeri Taivalkoski (10) said.

Along with their sessions in the pool, the swim team has two tubing days a week and two weight sessions a week. In addition, swimmers will practice on Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Wrestlers, like the swimmers, will have a full schedule over the break. Starting Monday, they will practice every day except for Christmas Day. After that, it is right back to the mats for the team to prepare for an overnight tournament from Dec. 30 to Dec. 31.

"I think that for a sport as demanding as wrestling it is just necessary to have practice over break," Steven Repka (10) said. "All of us don't want to be there, but we know that we really do need to be."

It does not matter what varsity sport a student participates in, practices will occur over Winter Break. Games, matches and meets will also take place over the two-week resting period. Most of the athletes agreed that although they do not want to practice, they need to stay in shape for their current season. It may be an academic break, but for the winter sport athletes, the only other break they will be enjoying is their water breaks at practice.

SPIRIT SECTION FOR BOYS **BASKETBALL GAMES**

HYPE IT UP. BRING THE **INTENSITY.**

ROD SILLIES

Fully loaded student section hopes to brings hype to boys' basketball team

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays are usually when the boys' and girls' basketball teams hit the floor for their games. With the varsity teams bringing in large numbers of student fans, these students come together as one to form the student section, a sort of united cheering group made up of their basketball teams' peers. With the formation of a student section comes responsibility, including being able to be there for every home game and being as loud as possible to cheer on the home team.

Within the Spartan student section, recently named the Rod Sillies, students from each grade play certain roles. After what many considered as a poor student section last year, the current students did not feel a subpar student section would be adequate for home games. This year, the senior boys stand on the floor to lead the student section, often yelling as much as possible at the other team to annoy them. The senior girls sit one row back and are often just as loud as the senior boys, but have the added responsibility of carrying the signs and the support for the players. One member of the senior guys student section is Brooks Doak (12).

"Being a senior leader is really great because I finally get to be on the floor with the rest of the guys, and I feel like my duty down there is to have the other students behind be involved in all the chants to help out the basketball team," Doak said.

When it comes to the section for students in their junior year, their class makes up the third, fourth and some of the fifth row. Still close to the action, their roles are not as important as the seniors, but these juniors are expected to scream right along with their elders.

> "There isn't another name that would make this section better. Rodney would want us to be crazy at the games and that's exactly what we are going to do."
>
> **BROOKS DOAK (12)**
> Student Section Member

"I feel that our role as upperclassmen is to go along with what the seniors do and then get the underclassmen behind us loud and as crazy as us down on the front lines," Ben Mandelbaum (11), a regular at the basketball games, said.

As for the freshmen and sophomores, they take up the space behind the upperclassmen. While some underclassmen choose to try to be as loud as the juniors and seniors, others do not.

"I think that we need to be as loud as possible so that the juniors and seniors can feel like we want to be a part of something in the section," Joey Schneider (10) said. "I feel like I need to get people involved as much as possible."

The student section at football games seemed to be made up of mostly upperclassmen, and Doak wants that to change for basketball season.

"During the football season, [the underclassmen] weren't loud and they weren't involved in many cheers," Doak said. "We want them to show up at basketball games be crazy. There are so many underclassmen. If they all showed up, the Rod Sillies would be crazy."

In memory of Rodney Thompson, a former Spartan basketball player who passed away in October, the Rod Sillies have sold over 230 shirts bearing the section name and have dedicated the cheering season to him.

"I think the name is awesome," Doak said. "There isn't another name that would make this section better. Rodney would want us to be crazy at the games and that's exactly what we are going to do."

With the basketball season in full swing and a big varsity boys match up tonight against Carroll, the students are excited to support the basketball teams. Whether it is the upperclassmen leading the charge or the underclassmen filling the seats, the Rod Sillies are ready to hold up signs, lead cheers and of course they are ready to be loud.

The next home basketball game is tonight against Carroll at 7 p.m. Come get silly.

PLAYBOOK FOR STUDENT SECTION: HOW TO BE A

ROD SILLY

1. When a player shoots a free throw, raise your arms up and give the "spirit fingers" for support.

2. As Jay Curry (12) shoots his free throws, in unison with his pre-shoot routine, chant "1, 2, 3 Shoot!"

3. At the beginning of the third-quarter, do the "roller-coaster", led by Collin McCracken (12).

4. Whenever a player shoots a three-point shot, it is demanded that all fans throw their hands up. Yelling "make it rain" is optional.

5. Starting tonight, one member of the student section will dress up as an old man in a referee uniform. Whenever a bad call is made, chant "sub" until the real referee is embarassed.

6. Wear a Rod Silly shirt to all of the games to show your support.

Girls' basketball team looks to build up fan base

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

When one walks into the gym for a boys' basketball game, they will find a packed student section to their right, with each student donned in the same special t-shirt. The rest of the bleachers will be chock-full with parents and family friends. It is often difficult to find a fun place to sit if you come late, and even the line for concessions is fairly long throughout the entire game. When the game finally starts there is almost more hype from the stands than there is on the court. However, if one comes to a girls' game, the vibe is completely different.

At a girls' game there is a small group of students who come to cheer on their friends, parents are scattered over the bleachers and one can walk straight up to the refreshment window for a snack. Regardless of the girls' basketball team's performance, they just cannot seem to build up an audience to the same degree that the boys' team does.

"There's just not the same level of excitement at the girls games," Jorie Kosmala (12), a faithful basketball fan, said. "I'm not sure why."

The girls' basketball team believes the reason for poor attendance at their games is simply that they get overlooked.

"I understand that the boys have made their program more pronounced with win in conference here and there, but I believe if the girls had the same support of the student body we might have a better team," Nikki Wilson (12), girls' basketball team leader, said. "In the game of basketball extrinsic factors, such as the fans, play a huge role."

The reason for apathy towards the girls' team cannot be their record (5-2), because they are having a winning season. However, it might be caused from a more popular interest in the boys' style of play.

"To the many that think that boys are better than girls, they are completely wrong," Wilson said. "Girls and boys have two different strategies. Boys play a quick game, while girls usually play with more strategy. I believe if we were to play the boys in a real game, it would be a closer game than most people imagine."

Indifference towards the girls' team cannot be because of the quality of players either. Rachel Kruse (12) is one of the area's leaders in scoring, Jena Hamrick (10) is one of the area's leaders in assists and the rest of the team is very talented.

"We have a great line-up of players," Wilson said. "We also have great off-the-bench players that provide the team with intensity when we need it."

The girls' winning record of 5-2 is impressive when looking at the schedule of teams they have gone up against. The two losses were while playing number two ranked Elmhurst and number five ranked Norwell. The game against the Norwell Knights was a nail bitter, as the Spartans only lost by one bucket.

"I think the team is going to go 6-1 in the conference and I hope to win the conference as well, we just need a little help from the stands," Wilson said."My one goal for this year is to have a filled student section that has the same amount of excitement as they do at the boys' games."

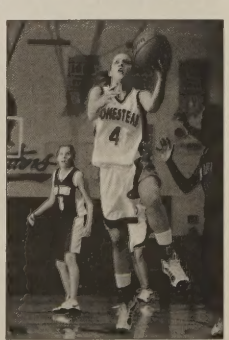


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Jena Hamrick (10) drives past two Bull Dogs for a lay-up.

Wrestling team faces danger of making weight

BY ANDREW WEISS
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

"Just a salad today?" a lunch lady asks.

"Yeah, I've got to make weight tonight. I haven't really been eating anything for the past couple days," a sophomore wrestler responds.

For some members of the wrestling team, which currently has a record of 5-1 after Tuesday's dual meet at Wayne High School, making weight consists of what many believe is unthinkable. Working out wearing multiple layers of clothing, eating or drinking very little for more than one day and other methods are used by wrestlers in an attempt to lose weight so they can compete in a lower weight class.

Each year, the IHSAA requires players to certify at a certain weight. The certification test includes a weigh-in, a hydration test and a skin-fold test to determine the body fat percentage of each wrestler. These tests, which determine the lowest weight a wrestler is allowed to wrestle at, were implemented to cut down on the number of wrestlers that try to cut weight dangerously by not eating or drinking water for extended periods of time.

"There's a right way and a wrong way to [cut weight]; these new policies cut down on the number of wrestlers cutting weight in water when they should be cutting weight in body fat," Coach Randy Pursley said.

While there are short and long-term risks involved in excessively cutting weight, wrestlers believe the positives outweigh the negatives. If a wrestler cannot make a lower weight class, they would be wrestling against someone who could be as much as five or more pounds heavier than them, a considerably large disadvantage.

"In a lot of cases, the person you are wrestling could be cutting a lot of weight. So when it comes to wrestling them, they may weigh a lot more than just five pounds more than you," Justin Norris (10), who wrestles in the 130 pound weight class, said.

The issue of wrestlers rapidly cutting weight was mainly ignored until it was brought to the public's attention in 1997 after three collegiate wrestlers died in the span of 33 days as a result of cutting weight. One of the three wrestlers attempted to cut 17 pounds in just three days by riding a stationary bike while wearing a plastic bag in a 92 degree room.

When competing, wrestlers' bodies are tested physically, as some wrestlers may only get a half an hour between matches or as much as a two hour break during dual meets and tournaments.

"It's kind of hard when you get stuck with a two hour break because you really want to get back in there [and wrestle again]," Greg Hope (11) said.

On Dec. 20, the team will travel to Penn High School to participate in a super-dual, where wrestlers will wrestle against members of five other teams. This meet will prepare wrestlers for the grueling post-season tournaments.

"I actually kind of like [wrestling more than once] because I feel like I get better every match, but afterwards, I feel tired," Tucker Smith (11) said.

WEIGH OF LIFE

Wrestlers must weigh in before every dual meet and on the morning of every tournament. In order to maintain a consistent weight, wrestlers must limit how much they eat and drink. Grapplers also work out intensely to lose weight through sweating. However, the IHSAA has banned the use of saunas and rubber or plastic suits to lose water weight because of the dangerous consequences. Wrestlers are always conscious of how much they weigh, usually stepping on the scale multiple times a day.

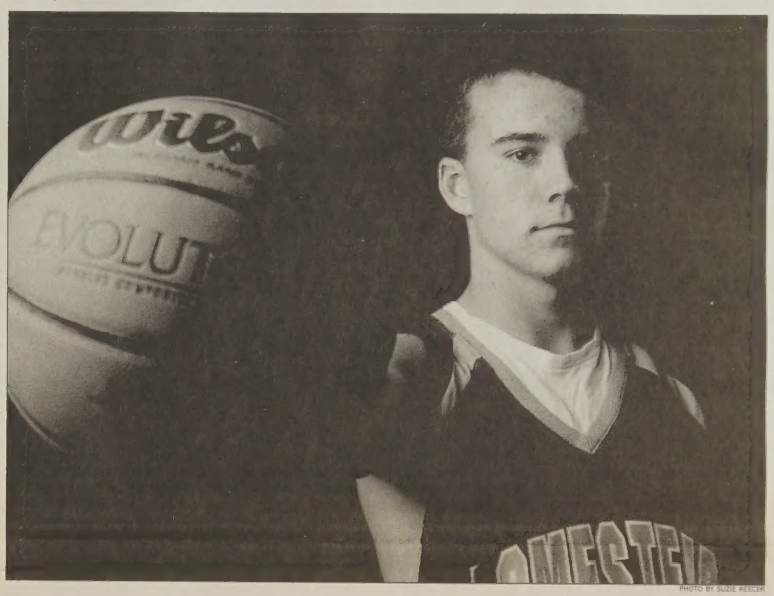


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Freshman Phenom

Zach Terrell (9) talks about pressures from varsity basketball, teammates

After starting off last season with a 1-3 record, the current boys' varsity basketball team is off to a 3-1 start, with their youth coming through in big games. With a roster dominated by juniors and only two senior captains, the team has found ways to win against the tough Summit Athletic Conference teams Harding and South Side. One of the youngsters that has been crucial to the Spartans' success has been point guard Zach Terrell (9). Terrell is the first freshman to start on the boys' varsity basketball team since Grant Leiendecker ('06), who currently plays basketball for Butler University.

Participating in the Spartan boys' varsity basketball team has been a step up for Terrell, as he previously played on the team at Woodside Middle School just a year ago. Being such a young player, Terrell will have to face the difficulties of the pressure put on him to perform at a level equal to that of his more experienced team members.

Spartana: What are your feelings of being the first freshman since Leiendecker to play varsity basketball?

Terrell: I feel honored. I mean, I'm playing varsity basketball as a freshman, you know? Not many people get to do that.

Spartana: Do you feel any pressure of being a freshman on the varsity team?

Terrell: I feel a lot of pressure. I feel it from my teammates and my coach to start as a freshman and to perform and play well every game.

Spartana: What has been the toughest part of adapting from middle school ball to high school ball?

Terrell: Definitely the speed of the game. It's so much quicker in high school compared to middle school.

Spartana: Have you been able to adjust quickly to the speed or will it take time?

Terrell: It hasn't been easy; it'll take time for me to fully adjust to it. I really was not expecting how fast the game was going to be. It was basically like a slap in the face.

> "I feel a lot of pressure. I feel it from my teammates and coach to start as a freshman and play and perform well every game."
>
> **ZACH TERRELL (9)**
> Varsity Basketball Player

Spartana: What do you feel is expected of you as a freshman?

Terrell: I think to not play as a freshman. A lot of opponents are going to try to use that as my weakness. I have to be able to not let my age decide how well I perform each game.

Spartana: Have you felt that the opponents try to target you on the court?

Terrell: Yeah, especially against Wayne. They got in my face and pressured me a lot. They know that since I'm so young that I might be able to get flustered easily and make mistakes.

Spartana: What was one of the first things you learned about high school basketball?

Terrell: To be careful with the ball. In middle school you could get away with a lot and not have it be as costly to the team. In high school, you have to be more careful because there's always going to be pressure on you.

Spartana: What do you feel are advantages of being a starting freshman on the varsity team?

Terrell: The experience of playing with other varsity players. By the time I'm a junior I'll be a lot more comfortable playing at the varsity level which will only make me a better player over time.

Spartana: What is your favorite pump up song to listen to?

Terrell: I like listening to "Let's Go" by Trick Daddy and "Last of a Dying Breed" by Ludacris and Lil' Wayne. I don't really listen to songs before games, but if I had to pick, it would be those two.

Spartana: What person and what athlete do you look up to the most?

Terrell: I look up to my dad the most because he's always been there for me and he's been somewhat of a mentor to me. My favorite athlete is Michael Jordan because I liked the way he handled himself on and off the court.

SEASON CHECKPOINT

SPORTS TEAM	Boys Basketball	Girls Swimming	Boys Swimming
SEASON RECORD	3-1	4th at HHS Invite Won dual at Bellmont	1st at HHS Invite Won dual at Bellmont
UPCOMING GAME	Carroll at Homestead Tonight at 7:15 p.m.	Dec. 23 vs. DeKalb at Homestead at 5:00 p.m.	Dec. 23 vs. DeKalb at Homestead at 5:00 p.m.
PEOPLE TO WATCH	Andy Phillippe (11) Dustin Durnell (11) Evan Rhoades (10)	Brittany Hinderman (12) Chelsea Noel (10) Nikki Keller (9)	Jacob Cook (9) Jake Furnas (10) Patrick Smith (11)

Where have all the cheerleaders gone?

They are the ones on the sidelines during games cheering on the boys' and girls' basketball teams. They are the ones decked out in blue and gold with a big 'H' on their chests. They are the ones shaking their pom-poms. They, of course, are the cheerleaders. Yet, they are possibly the only cheerleaders in the area who do not travel to away games to cheer on the basketball teams.

"Cheerleaders don't attend the away games because we've been told that the school cannot afford transportation," Demri Braun (11), varsity cheerleader, said.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

Most athletes are required to pay a fee to the school for transportation. For the basketball team, for example, each member of the freshmen, junior varsity and varsity basketball teams had to pay a $30 fee in order to cover transportation before they could even play a game. However, if anyone traveled to away games for the football, they would have seen the cheerleaders on the sidelines, exclaiming their chants in support for the players on the gridiron. The cheerleaders arrived at those away games because they paid the transportation fee just like the other athletes.

But the policy for cheerleaders traveling to away games seems to be different during basketball season. If cheerleading truly is a varsity sport like they say it is, they should have the right to pay the transportation fee like the other athletes to travel to away games year-round. If it were up to the cheerleaders, the choice would be clear.

"I would love to attend the away games," Braun said. "They're just as much fun as the home games. Plus, it's not fair for the basketball players not to have cheerleaders. Why is it that we can go to the away football games but not the away basketball games?"

Although some important aspects of the sport are competing and stunting, the squad must remember what the name of their sport really is: cheerleading. It is their responsibility to lead the crowd in cheers first and foremost. Regardless of the reasoning behind cheerleaders not being able to attain transportation to away basketball games, the girls on the squad believe that they should have an opportunity to cheer on their players.

"To me, the most important aspect of games is the get the crowd loud and cheering for the team," Braun said. "The more the crowd gets into the game, the better the players do."

There are some solutions to this problem. Because the team should represent the boys' and girls' basketball teams equally, the squad could send varsity to some away games and junior varsity to other away games. Either way, a solution is not difficult to find. Other options include carpooling or perhaps raising money through fundraisers to pay the transportation fee. Cheerleaders should not have to find their own transportation to away games. The basketball players would love to see the familiar faces of their cheerleading squads in the unfamiliar confines of opposing gymnasiums.

"Opposing teams always come with the best they have when we go to their places to play," Albert Jennings (11), varsity basketball player, said. "A lot of schools don't like our school, so having the cheerleaders there for that extra support is needed."

So give me an "S-P-A-R-T-A-N-S." What does that spell? For the fans attending away basketball games, they may never know.

ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE

Arguably the two most popular and commercialized athletic activities for the winter season, skiing and snowboarding have competed for the hearts of teenage cabin dwellers from the very second Sean White learned to ride a snowboard and eventually entered the spotlight of the X-Games and its overshadowing coverage of fakie-footed athletics. Allie Rice (12) and Trent Cooper (11) share their perspective, as experienced extreme sports athletes, on the respective winter sports that they love.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Spartana: When did you start skiing? Are you a competitive skier, and what style of skiing do specialize in?

Cooper: I've been skiing recreationally since I was young, and have gotten a lot more into it the past 2 seasons. I haven't done any competitive skiing, since there really isn't much of a way to do so around here. As far as styles go, I predominantly ski what would be considered alpine, which is just going out and skiing runs or some back country. I'm starting to spend a good amount of time freeskiing now, which would encompass park skiing.

Spartana: Where do you enjoy skiing the most?

Cooper: I enjoy the Salt Lake City area resorts, mostly because that's where I've been the most and am most familiar with.

Spartana: Many people believe skiing is for the people that are too afraid to snowboard. What are your thoughts on this?

Cooper: That's only based on the fact that snowboarding gets a lot more publicity and exposure, making it much more appealing to younger people, and it seems most people think skiing is going to be a lot easier and safer when looking into either of the two. As I see it, free skiing is progressing just as fast as snowboarding is and is also quickly gaining a lot more popularity. A lot of new core ski and film companies are quickly popping up, which should push the appeal of skiing.

Spartana: What is your greatest accomplishment in skiing?

Cooper: I'd have to say getting to ski Switzerland was really big. I was exposed to a lot of different skiing, and got to ski a lot of crazy runs.

Spartana: What words of wisdom do you have for an aspiring extreme winter sports athlete?

Cooper: Do it to enjoy it. When your not having fun anymore, you're probably taking it to seriously. And also, broaden your viewpoints. Assimilating with the general stereotypical ideas that Snowboarding is the only way to be "cool" and that there has to be hate between the two sports is pointless. Both have extremely tight-knit communities that love what they do. Arguing is only going create more problems.

Spartana: When did you begin snowboarding? What got you into it, and do you compete in the sport?

Rice: I began snowboarding when I was 10. I'd been a skier up until then but decided I would try something new. I honestly think I started snowboarding because when I was in 5th grade, I thought the snowboarders' clothes were better looking. But then I started to really fall in love with the sport and the people I met. I have competed a few times in NASTAR snowboard racing events, but nothing too huge. I stay away from terrain park competitions; it seems every time I'm under pressure and being watched on a rail or jump, I fall! I'm no Ben Hazen, who I've heard is great in the park.

Spartana: Where is your favorite place to snowboard? What is the most interesting place you have snowboarded?

Rice: I have been snowboarding out West as well as the German Alps, but my favorite place to snowboard is northern Michigan. For the time it takes to get there and the cheap price of lift tickets, it's perfect. My favorite places up north are Boyne Highlands, Nub's Nob, Caberfae, and Crystal Mountain.

Spartana: What is your greatest accomplishment in snowboarding? In what style do you specialize?

Rice: My greatest accomplishment in snowboarding has been introducing some of my now snowboard-loving friends to snowboarding.

Spartana: What are your thoughts on the female population of the snowboarding industry? Is it increasing, do you feel it is shadowed by male publicity, etc?

Rice: I believe men do overshadow snowboarding, but proportionally so. The number of amateur male snowboarders dominates the meager number of girl snowboarders, probably because the sport is labeled as an "extreme" sport. While snowboarding can definitely be extreme, it can also be one of the most relaxing activities while slowly winding down a wooded run in fresh powder with friends. And you can't beat getting fresh air all day, enjoying dinner and the nightlife at resorts, ending it all in an outdoor hot tub, and then waking up and doing it all over the next day. I could get used to that!

Spartana: What are your goals for your future in snowboarding?

Rice: My future goals for snowboarding are to keep with it! It will probably be hard to find time once I am in

Spartana: How can you help the aspiring winter extreme-sport athlete in his/her decision between snowboarding and its alleged "easy" counterpart, skiing?

Rice: I encourage everyone to get out on the slopes during the winter, whether it be skiing or snowboarding; they are both equally fun. However, I believe skiing is much more difficult to get the hang of than snowboarding- besides a sore tail, snowboarding is a lot easier for beginners, especially when it comes to falling and getting back up again.

- 28 percent of ski visitors were snowboarders.
- In the 2006-07 season, roughly 55 million skiers and snowboarders visited ski resorts.
- 1.9 million snowboarders aged 25 and up.
- There is a steady rise among female snowboarders.

TIMBER RIDGE

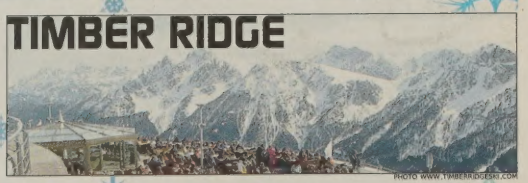


PHOTO WWW.TIMBERRIDGEMI.COM

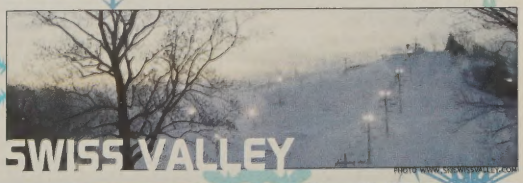


PHOTO WWW.SKISWISSVALLEY.COM

TOP OF THE SLOPES

SWISS VALLEY

Kalamazoo, MI
Vertical drop: 225 feet
Total Runs: 11
20% Expert and Advanced
60% Intermediate Runs
20% Beginner Runs
Skiing Area: 60 acres
Annual snowfall: 6 feet

PERFECT NORTH

Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Vertical drop: 400 feet
Total Runs: 23
25% Expert a nd Advanced
50% Intermediate Runs
25% Beginner Runs
Skiing Area: 75 acres
Annual snowfall: 2 feet

TIMBER RIDGE

Gobles, MI
Vertical drop: 240 feet
Total Runs: 15
10% Expert and Advanced
70% Intermediate Runs
20% Beginner Runs
Skiing Area: 50 acres
Annual snowfall: 5 feet

PHOTO WWW.SKISWISSVALLEY.COM SOURCE WWW.SKISWISSVALLEY.COM

SOURCE WWW.GOTRIGHTSNOWS.COM

ISSUE 4

MIRADOR

19 DECEMBER 2008
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
4310 HOMESTEAD ROAD
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46814

PHOTO BY WWW.SEAT42F.COM

Spitting Image: Which one of these castmates from Scrubs look like a Homestead faculty member? Find out on pg. 8.

TABLE of CONTENTS

PHOTO BY MEGAN HERBERT

The Ethiopian Restaurant: Simple name. Quality Food (see pg. 14).

3 Vegetarian Christmas

5 Wal-Mart Christmas Challenge

7 Photo Essay: Celebrity Look Alikes

9 7 Movies You Should See...Now

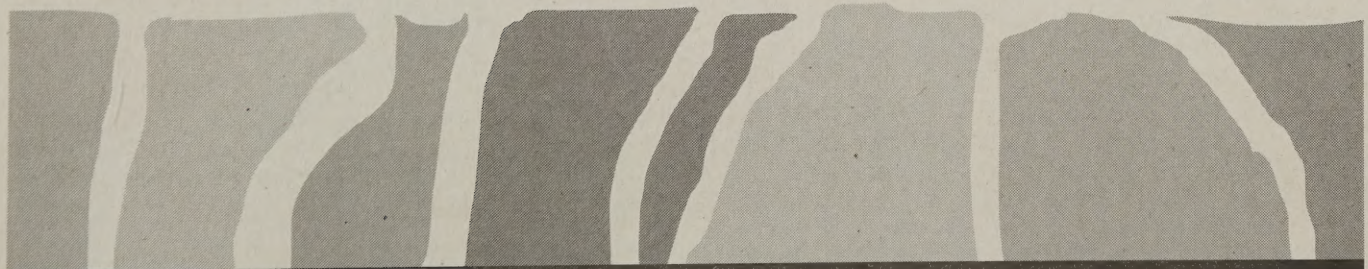
11 Artist of the Month: Alyssa Bolinger

13 Music Review: Chinese Democracy

14 Food Review: The Ethiopian Restaurant

mir·a·dor (mr-dôr, -dr)
n. a window, balcony, or turret designed to command a broad view

Editor in Chief: Stephanie Zimmerman
Associate Editor: Megan Herbert
Photographers: Suzie Reecer, Margaret Distler
Writers: Noah Gayer, Tess Anglin, Kati Vail, Bradley Adamson, Cam Kaminski



Always low prices: Three students set out to prove that christmas shopping on a budget is not just a myth, leading to some interesting gift ideas (pg 6).

PHOTOS BY KATI VAIL

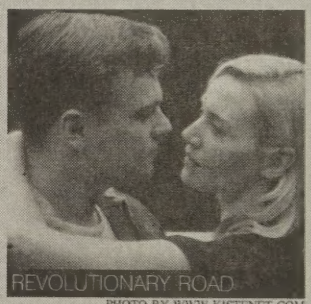
RELEASES & EVENTS

RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS

PHOTO BY WWW.MEDIA2THEADVOCATE.COM

GLASVEGAS

PHOTO BY WWW.DEADLINESCOTLAND.COM



REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

PHOTO BY WWW.KISTENET.COM

CONCERTS

12/15 Disturbed (8:00 PM), Murat Egyptian Room, $38-97.00
12/19 Marc Broussand (8:00 PM), Music Mill, $33-34.00
12/20 Saving Abel (7:00 PM), The Vogue
12/22 Trans Siberian Orchestra (7:30 PM), Conseco Fieldhouse, $36-46.00
1/20 Red Jumpsuit Apparatus (7:30 PM), Music Mill, $39.00
1/21 Kings of Leon (8:00 PM), Music Mill, $65.00-398.00

MOVIE RELEASES

12/19 The Class; Seven Pounds; The Tale of Despereaux; Yes Man
12/24 Theater of War
12/25 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Marley & Me; The Spirit; Valkyrie
12/26 Revolutionary Road
12/31 Defiance; Good; The Lodger

MUSIC RELEASES

12/16 Keyshia Cole; Dave Matthews Band; Fall Out Boy; Piles; Soulja Boy
12/23 Fear the State
1/6 Glasvegas; Erin McCarley; Soundtrack of Our Lives; My Dear Disco

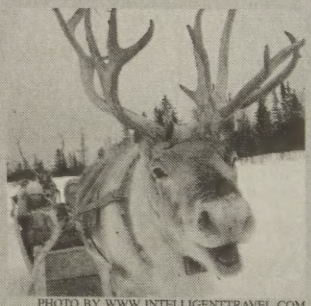


PHOTO BY WWW.INTELLIGENTTRAVEL.COM

HOLIDAY

Santa and his Reindeer: Visit the reindeer barn, meet Santa, and take care of that chemistry extra credit
12/20 $10-15
Children's Zoo
9 AM-2 PM

MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Gun and Knife Show: See the latest in shooting and cutting
1/3 9 AM-5 PM
1/4 9 AM-3 PM
Indiana Flea Market: Various vendors selling various knick-knacks
1/9 3-9 PM
1/10 10 AM-7 PM
1/11 11 AM-5 PM

RECREATION

Dip-n-Dive Dodgeball Tournament: All day dodgeball competition
1/10 $15-20
The Plex

ARTLINK

Photoshop: Learn Photoshop techniques using your own photos
1/17,1/31 $25
12 AM-4 PM
InDesign: Learn how to navigate InDesign
1/24 $25
12 AM-4 PM
www.artlinkfw.com

the stockings are hung, the relatives are on their way, and the honeybaked ham is coming out of the oven, but there's just one little problem...

i'm a vegetarian.

BY TESS ANGLIN
WRITER

With the holidays nearing, the preparation for all the holiday festivities is finally coming together. From the decorations throughout the city to the Salvation Army volunteers ringing for money outside of Wal-Marts, it is undeniable that the holidays are close. A major part of the holidays are the lavish meals eaten by families and friends, full of delicious turkey, potatoes and other traditional recipes. Generally, these recipes contain various types of meat or meat-based products, but what happens if you do not eat meat?

"There are tons of options for me during the holidays. Brands such as Morning Star and Boca make soy-based products, which is like meatless meat," says Bri Bardonner (10), who became a vegetarian when she was 8.

Even for Colleen Winters (10), newly vegetarian, the holiday meal won't be a challenge because she plans on eating a boca burger or something similar to what her family is having, minus the meat. "We have lots of side dishes at my grandparents' house," says Winters. "I don't plan on going hungry out there."

While there are vegetarian options available as substitutes for main meat dishes, being a vegetarian can affect friends and family, too. When Bardonner first became a vegetarian, her mom had to fix separate meals for her, aside from the ones already prepared for the family. Eventually, her mother decided it was easier to cook all vegetarian meals for the whole family.

As for Winters, her family is also trying to help accommodate her by eating more fish at meals and purchasing meals for her that she can eat instead of the main meat dish. Some of the best vegetarian dishes to eat are fairly easy to make, and very healthy. "I hate tofu, but I love soy. Also, a really amazing vegetable dish is ratatouille,"says Bardonner.

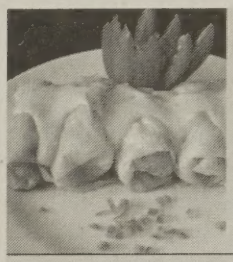
Nick Kattman (12) says his favorite vegetarian friendly foods are "all the carbs, junk foods and salads. They are the best foods anyways." Although being vegetarian may appear to be a strange lifestyle, there are a numerous reasons one might become a "veg-head".

Winter's choice to become vegetarian began when she became bored with meat and decided vegetarianism would be a healthier life style. Kattman simply didn't like meat and decided it would be healthier to go without.

Being vegetarian is also beneficial to one's health. Winters, Kattman and Bardonner all agree that they have had more energy, lost weight, and felt healthier by eating vegetarian food.

The only regret of becoming vegetarian for Winters and Kattman is missing their favorite meat-filled meals. Winters misses her mother's meat loafs and pot pies, while Kattman misses his Arby's melts.

But they have made their decision to be vegetarians and will not be swayed by the allure of a simple guilty pleasure meal. And during the holiday season, not even a fresh from the oven honeybaked ham will stop them from enjoying a homemade Christmas meal, because there are Boca burgers for that.



CABBAGE ROLLS

Serves: 6
Preparation time: 105 minutes

Ingredients

15 large green cabbage leaves
¼ c white vinegar
7½ oz package of Spanish-style rice mix
15 oz stewed tomatoes with juice
2 T vegetable oil
1 large onion, diced
1 medium red or yellow bell pepper, diced
2½ oz vegetarian ham or pepperoni, diced
10 oz tomato soup
½ c water

Method

Place cabbage in pot, cover with water, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, add vinegar, cover, and simmer until slightly softened, about 5-7 minutes. Drain and set aside.
Meanwhile, prepare Spanish rice according to package directions, using the stewed tomatoes. Set aside.
Heat oil in frying pan over medium-high heat; add onion, pepper, and ham; and sauté for 5 minutes. Add to Spanish rice.
Preheat oven to 350. Grease baking dish.
Lay out a cabbage leaf, place a large scoop of the mixture inside, roll up leaf, and place in dish, seam-side down. Repeat with remaining cabbage and mixture.
Combine tomato soup and water, pour over cabbage rolls, cover the dish with aluminum foil, and bake until cabbage is tender, about 1½ hours

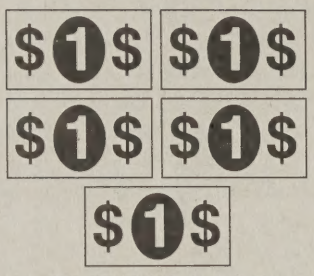
SOURCE: WWW.THEVEGGIETABLE.COM

WAL★MART HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

BY KATI VAIL
WRITER

With the holidays just around the corner, getting prepared for the gift exchange isn't all fun and games. Buying gifts for friends and family without breaking the bank can be stressful, especially when time is running out.

THREE STUDENTS



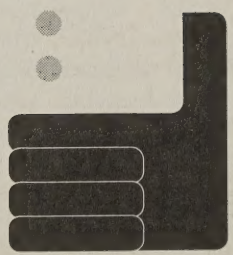
FIVE DOLLARS

TWENTY MINUTES

ONE TRIP TO WAL-MART

SOME CREATIVE THINKING

THREE BRILLIANT GIFTS



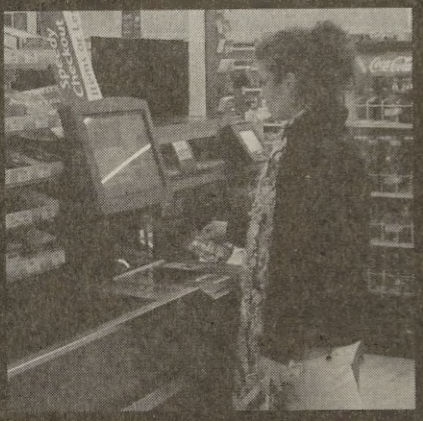
ONE CERTIFIED CHRISTMAS STAMP OF APPROVAL

At the start of the challenge, all three students went off in different directions, Max Dickmeyer (10) browsing the DVD shelves, Crysta Maniscalco (10) heading to the beauty department, and Kate Bienz (12) dashing to the toy section.

MAX DICKMEYER (10)

Dickmeyer searched the store for something that would be a personable and creative gift for a girl; he had a little trouble, even with his dad there to help him. He finally settled on spending all five dollars on several king-sized candy bars, a simple gift that any chocoholic would enjoy.

CRYSTA MANISCALCO (10)



Maniscalco, on the other hand, loaded up on Sour Patch Kids, lime green nail polish, a toy from the 88 cent bin, and a box of cornbread. She, too, had difficulty staying within the budget; her first handful of gifts went five cents over the limit.

KATE BIENZ (12)

After a lot of thought, Bienz narrowed it down to two options–a bead and hemp kit or several toys from the 88 cent bin. Although she was done first, she was stunned to find that her total was $5.22, twenty-two cents over the budget. She then wandered deep into the store, later calling to ask permission to buy a 'questionable' gift. However, Bienz's creativity won the Wal-Mart escapade: she managed to purchase 35 goldfish for twelve cents each.

ALL PHOTOS BY KATI VAIL

AFTERWARDS...

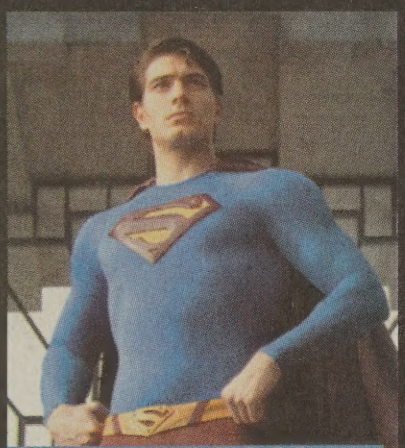
After the completion of their shopping challenge, all three agreed that shopping for a decent gift for a friend on a budget of under five dollars was more difficult than they expected, but not impossible. Although challenging, it can be fun and rewarding to see just what can be found within the low priced depths of Wal-Mart.

So, save money. Live better. And if all else fails, buy someone a goldfish. Just don't forget the fish food.

CELEBRITY

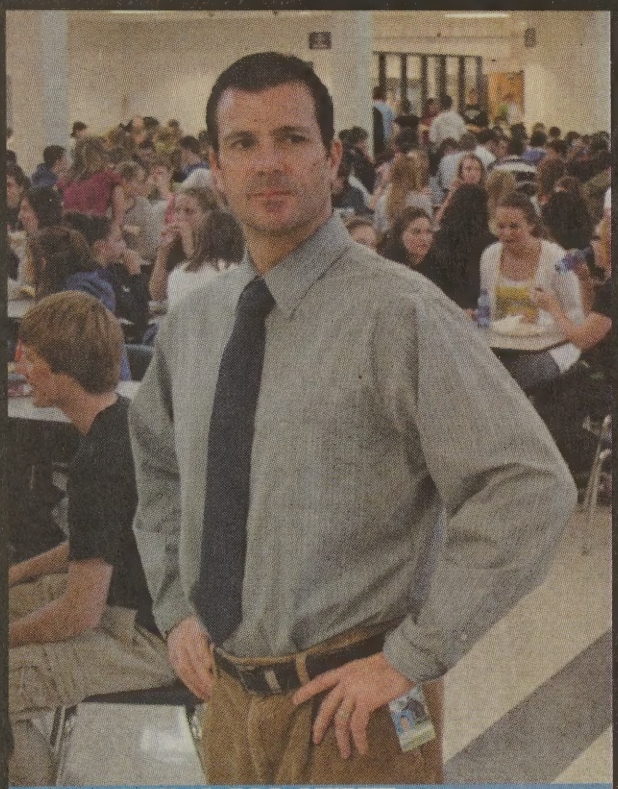
or something like it

Homestead, though more than 2200 miles from Hollywood, seems to have become a breeding ground for stars, cartoon characters, and maybe even a superhero or two.



SUPERMAN (CLARK KENT)

PHOTO BY WWW.MOVIECITYNEWS.COM



JEFF KINTZ

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

LIV TYLER

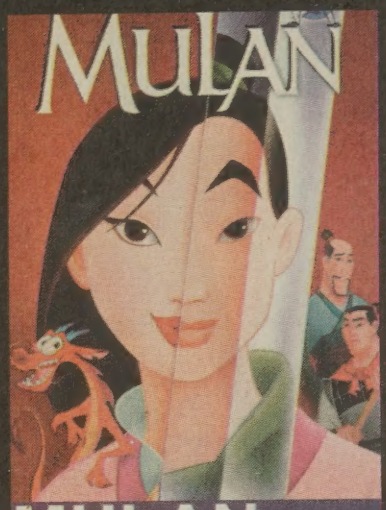
PHOTO BY WWW.FULLWALLS.BLOGSPOT.COM

CHELSEA CHILDERS (12)

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

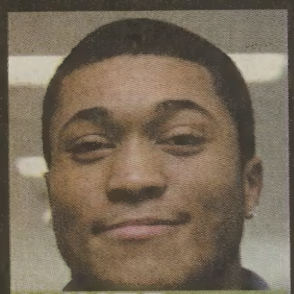
SUSAN TSAI (11)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER



MULAN

PHOTO BY WWW.GEOCITIES.COM



AHMED TABRON (11)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

BOW WOW

PHOTO BY WWW.MUSIQ.BLOGSPOT.COM

MIKE LOUGH AND PETER RONDOT (12)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

JOHN C. MCGINLEY (DR. COX) AND ZACH BRAFF (DR. DORIAN)

PHOTO BY WWW.LITE-LITE.BLOGSPOT.COM

7 MOVIES YOU SHOULD SEE NOW

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

PHOTO BY WWW.FILMCATCHER.COM

Memento "Memento" is a psychological thriller directed by Christopher Nolan featuring Guy Pearce as Leonard Shelby, a man who suffers from anterograde amnesia, and is unable to create new memories. The story follows Leonard in reverse order, each scene earlier than the last, with one storyline filmed in grey, and the other in color. The plot follows Leonard's struggle to find his wife's murderer while not being able to trust anyone around him, unaware of anything more than a few minutes long.

PHOTO BY WWW.SIDEREEL.COM

2 Garden State "Garden State" is written and directed by Zach Braff. The film follows Andrew Largeman's (Zach Braff's) journey from a medicated, numb, bottled up emotioned young adult to a regular, emotional human. The film touches on his search for meaning and love after a life of piled on medications forced on him by his psychiatrist father. The film features a hand-picked soundtrack by Zach Braff, who received a Grammy for the score. Garden State remains one of the most refreshingly original films of our age, despite its fairly recent release date in 2004.

3 Donnie Darko "Donnie Darko" is a cult classic and psychological thriller directed by Richard Kelly. Jake Gyllenhaal stars as Donnie, a boy who suffers from mental problems and visions of end of the world ultimatums. The film often bends reality as it enters Donnie's mind as he proceeds to carry out his life and purpose in the end of the world. Donnie Darko is a movie you can't watch once and truly understand. For this it received critical acclaim, despite breaking even in the box office. A sequel is planned for 2009.

PHOTO BY GERALDPEARY.COM

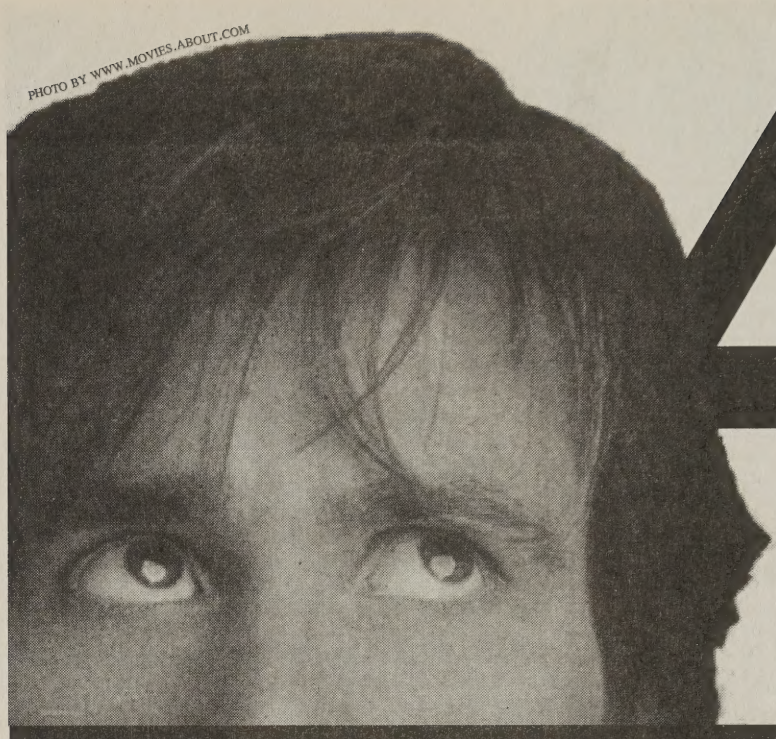


PHOTO BY WWW.MOVIES.ABOUT.COM

4 Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind

"Eternal Sunshine" is a drama and romantic-comedy directed by Michel Gondry starring Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, and Kirsten Dunst. The film explores both visually and morally the nature of memory. The main conflict involves a couple who don't know they were ever together. Jim Carrey stars as Joel Barish, a man who struggles to remember his relationship with Clementine Kruczynski (Kate Winslet) during the erasing of his memory.

PHOTO BY WWW.MOVIEWALLPAPERS.NET

5 Trainspotting

"Trainspotting" is a film directed by Danny Boyle derived from a book with the same name by author Irvine Welsh. The movie follows a group of heroin addicts as they struggle to survive in Edinburgh, attempting to find their own ways out of the depressed city. The film's title is based off of a section in the book not included in the movie. The slang term "Trainspotting" is used to describe a drug addicts' obsession for the next hit, just like a train-spotters' obsession for the next train number.

6 Heima

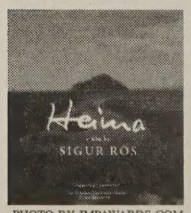


PHOTO BY IMPAWARDS.COM

"Heima" is a documentary of the Icelandic band Sigur Ros as they perform a series of free, unannounced shows throughout Iceland. Much of the filming takes on an objective and ambient feel that captures the beauty and isolation of Iceland. Along with this, many rare live performances and interviews were recorded perfectly. Heima means "home" in Icelandic, and describes the purpose of the film-to show Iceland as it truly is.

7 About a Son

"About a Son" is directed by AJ Schnack which details the life of famous Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain via interviews recorded by journalist Michael Azerrad. The film features no real footage of Kurt or any of the other band members, but ambient cinematography of people and places where Kurt spent the majority of his life. While not everyone is a fan of Nirvana, the documentary is more insightful on Kurt's life and the world of a rockstar, rather than the band's.

I think, and hope, my friends would say I am free-spirited, intelligent, driven, responsible, artistic, and of course, groovy.
alyssa bolinger

ALYSSA BOLINGER

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Every month, the Mirador highlights a different Homestead artist. This issue, Alissa Bolinger (12) explains why she is an artist and why art is sometimes the only way to simplify a complicated thought process.

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

Mirador: What kind of artist are you?
Bolinger: I am a vocal artist, as well as a visual artist.
M: Why do you do what you do?
B: If you believe in energy, which I do, then you understand that everything in life has a unique vibration and rhythm. Just like Bob Marley, I sing because I want to share "positive vibrations." Painting is something I use to simplify my thoughts. I take the mess of words I have to describe how I view something or someone and assign an image of some sort to it.
M: Who or what are some of your influences?
B: There are three women that I owe my love for singing to: Janis Joplin, Ella Fitzgerald and June Christy. My painting style is not so much influenced by other artists' work, rather by my own reality. I can't really offer a better explanation than that. Some of my favorite artists include Bruni Sablan, Pablo Picasso, Alphonsa Mucha, Kate Worm and Gustav Klimt.
M: Do you write your own music?
B: I do write music, but I have only performed covers. This is mostly because I do not play the guitar... yet.
M: What is your greatest achievement?
B: My greatest achievement so far would have to be when I received a phone call asking me to sing at the Grand Wayne Center for a benefit dinner, where I got the celebrity treatment. It is an amazing feeling when a life goal is met in your senior year of high school.
M: What is your favorite band or musician?
B: I don't really have one favorite band or musician. I have what I like to call my "staple bands," the bands I listen to all the time that speak to me the most: John Butler Trio, Sublime, Grateful Dead and Jethro Tull.
M: What are your favorite songs to listen to?
B: I have a favorite song dedicated to various moods or activities. "Peacefrog" by the Doors is for driving, "Trouble in Mind" by Janis Joplin for when I'm feeling down, and "Sugar Magnolia" by Grateful Dead is for dancing.
M: What is your favorite form of art?
B: To be truthful, my favorite form of art is the everyday world--look at something completely ordinary and letting it speak to you--let it teach you something. A lot of artists try to twist shapes and mix colors to show you something they want you believe in, but nature lets you decide.
M: When did you first start being an artist?
B: This sounds cliché, but singing has been a part of my life since birth. I remember being little and standing on my couch performing in front of a crowd of stuffed bears and dogs. My dad was the first one to show me how to doodle and draw as soon as I could pick up a crayon. He also taught me how to color inside the lines.
M: What are your plans after high school?
B: This summer I plan on doing some traveling, but then I will be spending my first year of college at St. Francis here in Ft. Wayne. After my freshman year, I plan on leaving Indiana. I hope to get into Oberlin College and continue studying psychology and art. Art/music therapy is my tentative career choice.

BACKGROUND INFO

FAVORITE ARTISTS: Bruni Sablan, Pablo Picasso, Alphonsa Mucha, Kate Worm, and Gustav Klimt
MUSIC INFLUENCES: Janis Joplin, Ella Fitzgerald and June Christy
COLLEGE MAJOR: Art and psychology
CAREER CHOICE: Art/Music Therapy

PHOTO BY WWW.STRANGECULTUREBLOGS.COM

Guns N' Roses: The band, formed in 1985, features lead singer Axl Rose.

CHINESE DEMOCRACY

PHOTO BY WWW.DAILYMAIL.SO.UK.COM

Chinese Democracy: Album cover

Guns N' Roses album predicted to be another bestseller

BY BRADLEY ADAMSON
WRITER

There has been much hype surrounding the recent release of Guns N' Roses' new album, "Chinese Democracy." Fans have eagerly awaited this much-anticipated album, as it has been more than a decade since the band has released any original material.

Formed from two separate bands, L.A. Guns and Hollywood Rose, Guns N' Roses came together in California during a show in Los Angeles in 1985. Considered a hard rock band known for their sizzling electric guitar sounds, their popularity soared during the late '80s and early '90s. Their best-selling album,"Appetite for Destruction," sold more than 29.5 million copies worldwide. The album kept the band in the forefront of the 21st century rock world.

BRAD'S RATING

Hardcore fans have waited for this day to come, and on Nov. 23, 2008, "Chinese Democracy," the newest Guns N' Roses album, was released to the world. Their title track was released less than a month ago on iTunes. It instantly hit the top rock charts in the United States and Canada. However, a few songs previewed even earlier. In September, "Shackler's Revenge" was featured in the video game Rock Band 2, and in October, "If the World" premiered at the end of the movie Body of Lies.

Many countries, China included, have been devoted fans of Guns N' Roses for years, and nothing could be done to stop their desire for this album. However, the title track happens to be the most controversial, as it portrays Axl Rose's emotions toward Communism and the Chinese government. China initially wanted to halt the release of this album for the sole reason that they believe it mocks their government. In the end, the Chinese government conceded, for they knew the Chinese public would obtain the album regardless of any ban put in place.

There are a total of 14 songs, many of which feature fast-paced rhythms with prominent electric guitar melodies. Besides the title track, "Shackler's Revenge," "There was a Time," "Scraped" and "I.R.S." are examples of such fast-paced, classic rock songs. Others, such as "Better," "Street of Dreams," "If the World" and "Madagascar" have a slower, relaxed feel, while keeping that rocker edge.

Chinese Democracy has received mixed reviews, as some dedicated fans expecting an encore of Appetite for Destruction were disappointed. Rose, the band's lead singer, is the only returning member from the original band. Rose is the main creator of this album and his style greatly influenced the end product. Chinese Democracy is still a hard-rocking album, but includes too many extra instrumentals and odd synthetic noises that break from the traditional Guns N' Roses style.

PHOTO BY MEGAN HERBERT

Your Cup of Tea: The Ethiopian Restaurant features authentic and traditional coffee with a distinct flavor

ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT

Downtown restaurant serves up ethnic dining , minus the cutlery

BY MEGAN HERBERT
WRITER

For a new dining experience, East State Blvd. has a tasty alternative to the normal, overpopulated options of Ft. Wayne. Despite the common American, Mexican, Italian and Chinese cuisine, ethiopian food offers up dishes that are not known by mainstream cutomers. The new Ethiopian restaurant, cleverly titled The Ethiopian Restaurant, is sure to provide a new twist to the average dining experience.

With an unassuming entrance, this quiet diner can easily be missed by passersby. Upon entering the restaurant, the yellow walls, authentic ethiopian decorations, and animal skin paintings give character to the restaurant.

The employees of the restaurant are natives of Ethiopia. They talk with an accent, but nothing terrible enough to stop customers from placing an order. Although only two tables at a time seemed to be filled, the atmosphere was homey, where great conversation could be shared over a meal. The music playing was quaint and comforting. People can be seen walking by the storefront, appearing to be interested, but then turning away.

Each meal is served with injera, which is an Ethiopian bread. It's similar to pita, but is moist and stretchy. Without the assistance of cutlery, customers are forced to eat with the injera or just resort to using their fingers. The process of picking up food with the injera is tricky to get the hang of, but once conquered, one can eat everything on the table.

The Doro Wat is a chicken dish served with a hot berbere sauce. A decent sized piece of chicken along with a boiled egg was covered in the berbere sauce, which was a multiple spiced sauce of a red-brown color. The chicken was tender and the egg was a comforting side dish.

The vegetarian platter from The Ethiopian Restaurant is served with seven separate dishes-smaller portions than if it were to be ordered separately. In the middle was a simple salad called Timatim Selata, with lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes covered in a simple lemon dressing centered in the platter. Gomen was on the side of the dish, consisting of collard greens cooked with spices.

The spiciest dish on the plate was the Mesir Wat. It is a red lentil puree, somewhat like the Doro Wat sauce without the meat.

The coffee is a must if going to The Ethiopian Restaurant. It's a traditional, freshly brewed coffee that has a very distinct flavor. A sweet and almost nutty flavored coffee is served in a kettle that has native designs on it. The cups were small, but very attractive.

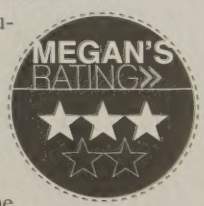
Overall, the Ethiopian Restaurant is an odd choice for a high school student, but those looking to expand his or her horizons should definitely stop by for at least one taste.

ETHIOPIAN**MENU**

$9.95 Doro Wat
$9.95 Vegetarian Platter
$1.95 Traditional Coffee

ETHIOPIAN**INFO**

2805 East State Blvd.
Tues-Thurs: 11AM-9PM
Fri-Sat: 11AM-11PM
Sun: 11AM-8:30PM



the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 9 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Alum gifts $1,000 for Ecology students

Ecology teacher Emily Palmer holds the $1,000 check donated to her class by former student and Best Buy employee Tina Sheedy.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Grant use still undetermined for donation from Best Buy employee

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Science teacher Emily Palmer has recently received a $1,000 grant for the Ecology department. This money will be used to enhance the program in any way, shape or form. Grateful for the generous contribution, Palmer has expressed her gratitude to former ecology student and Best Buy employee, Tina Sheedy.

"I was excited and very thankful that Tina Sheedy decided to give back," Palmer said. "That really meant a lot to me. [Sheedy] is a very, very good person."

Throughout the school year and summer, Sheedy spent much time working with Ecology students, supporting a program she once knew and loved. Ensuring that current students receive the same educational experiences that she did, Sheedy requested a grant from Best Buy to aid her community service efforts. Although Sheedy hopes the grant will go toward giving students the privilege to partake in activities like rappelling, climbing and taking field trips to the environmental center, Palmer is free to use the money in any way to benefit her classes.

"[Sheedy] did the work behind the scenes with Best Buy," Palmer said. "On Jan. 22, [Sheedy] and a co-worker of hers came to my classroom with a giant check for 1,000 dollars. They presented the check, took some pictures and raffled off

Class grant, continued on 2a

> "I was excited and very thankful that Tina Sheedy decided to give back. That really meant a lot to me."
>
> **EMILY PALMER**

CHASING the birds & the bees

District readjusts curriculum efforts after sex education cut

BY PATRICK SVITEK • ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ILLUSTRATION BY CAM KAMINSKI

While Southwest Allen County Schools was recuperating in the wake of budget cuts exceeding $900,000 last December, Planned Parenthood of Indiana announced a different type of number.

While the statistic could have been the 91,168 patients serviced statewide by the birth services center — or even the 426,684 contraceptives distributed, the figure that left Brian Landrigan (11) in awe involved one of the true life choices he was once taught in a fidgeting middle school classroom.

Planned Parenthood of Indiana performed 5,002 abortions in 2008.

"It's pretty disgusting," Landrigan said. "The U.S. is supposed to be that beacon of hope for the world, but when one state puts that many to death alone, it's hard to imagine."

Landrigan was one of more than 200 eighth-grade students who participated in True Life Choices at Summit Middle School in 2006. Five years later, however, there will be no students pouring out of Summit science classrooms on the last day of the program with gold and white plastic abstinence pledge cards in hand. The elimination of the program saved Southwest Allen County Schools $11,700 — and left the future wide open for what PPIN Director of Communications Kate Shepherd believes is an "ever-changing" sexual education structure.

The right place at the wrong time

Fourteen years ago, the True Life Choices program entered the hallways of the district in its infancy. The group taught at the middle school level, employing Caramel, Ind.-based Creating Positive Relationship's curriculum with a broader theme of abstinence

TLC cuts, continued on 2a

'Everything ruined' in fire at students' home

Family forced to start over after inferno

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

With the security that smoke alarms and fire drills provide, the thought of losing everything to a fire rarely crosses anyone's mind. However, while they were away on vacation over winter break, the house of Harry Foster (12) and Jamison Foster (9) caught fire, leaving their family with virtually nothing.

On January 3rd, an electrical fire occurred in Foster house located in Sycamore Hills on Sycamore Hills Parkway. Authorities believe the fire was started in either the elevator or the theater room in the home.

> "Pretty much the whole first floor collapsed into the basement. The upstairs was mostly smoke damage, but everything was ruined."
>
> **HARRY FOSTER**
> Senior

When the fire began during the day, the family was not home; however, someone driving by saw smoke coming from the house and decided to call authorities. The family came home to police and fire trucks in front of their house, informing them about the state of their residence.

Although the family was aghast, Harry was out of town at the Rose Bowl and had to learn of the devastation over the phone.

"No people were hurt, but two dogs died," Harry Foster said.

House Fire, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY ZACH VESSELS

Crowds gather to witness the swearing in of 44th U.S. president Barack Obama.

Students recall inauguration

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

Promising change for the better, President Obama has inspired and excited the nation that elected him to office. On Jan. 20, 2009, his inauguration captured the attention our nation, and consequently, our school, drawing a select group of students and Psychology teacher, Tim Decker, to Washington D.C. to witness the historic event firsthand.

Despite the difficulties associated with attending the inauguration, including long distance traveling and even missing finals, some students could not overlook the opportunity to be one of the millions of supporters at our nation's capital on that chilly January morning.

Obama, continued on 2a

Counselor: 'Way too much emphasis' on class rank

College applicants split over absence of standing on transcripts

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

As the frenzied procedures of college applications loom ominously overhead, stressed seniors may feel stretched even thinner at the disheartening rumors surrounding two quintessential components of college application—class rank and weighted grades.

"A student's class rank is based upon his/her GPA," Amy. Hamilton, one of four guidance counselors, said. "Homestead operates on a twelve point scale, but the four point scale also accommodates extra weight to acknowledge A+'s. Ranking depicts the brightest kids and accurately reflects student performance."

According to another guidance counselor, Rosemary Bobish, class rank is easily determined by comparing each student's grade point average.

"The student with the highest GPA is ranked number one, the second highest is ranked number two, and so on," Bobish said.

While the formula for calculating class rank may seem relatively straightforward, there is some dissension as to how accu

Class rank, continued on 2a

YOU'VE GOT SCALE

As of the 2008-'09 school year, an A+ on the 4.0 scale is worth 4.33 points.

	12.0 Scale	4.0 Scale
A+	12.00	4.33
A	11.00	4.00
B	8.00	3.00
C	5.00	2.00
D	2.00	1.00
F	0.00	0.00

BRIEFS

DANCE MARATHON 2009
The 2009 Dance Marathon will be held from Friday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. to Saturday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m., and participants are to arrive at 6:45 p.m. A minimum of $350 per couple is due on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room. For any questions, participants are to contact Buffy Thomas at 260-615-3500.

WRESTLING SECTIONALS
Wrestling Sectionals will be held at New Haven on Saturday, Jan. 31, starting at 8:30 a.m. The participating schools include Bishop Luers, Elmhurst, Snider, South Side, Harding, Heritage, New Haven and Woodlan. The top four winners from the tournament in each weight class will advance to the regional tournament.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

TRYOUT DATE FOR VARIETY SHOW
Tryouts for the show will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18, and Thursday, Feb. 19, from 2:45 to 5:45 p.m., where students will present a one-minute piece to drama director Victoria Malooley.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Teachers Facing Maternity Leave
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Obama's Moment, Ed Board, Left and Write
PAGE 4A, Life: Digital TV Switch, Teachers Connect Digitally, Early Starts for Early Graduates
PAGE 5A, Life: Dietary Restrictions, Decline in Respect
PAGE 6A, Sports: **Athletic Patches**, Wrestling, Wintry Mix for Basketball Season
PAGE 7A, Sports: Swimming Family Values, Full Court Press, Gymnastics Spotlight
PAGE 8A, Feature: Before They Were Teachers...

OBAMA CONTINUED FROM 1A

"The best thing was to feel the atmosphere of all the people pumped up to see the ceremony," Kyle Davis (10) said. "The worst [part] was it was very difficult to see what was going on."

Participating in the event as well, Decker was given the chance to march in the inaugural parade.

"I marched in the parade as a member of Port Security Unit 309, which is a Coast Guard Reserve unit from Port Clinton, OH," Decker said. "The reason this unit was chosen was because they just returned from a seven-month deployment to the Middle East, and the reason I was asked to march with them is because I am taking over as the Executive Officer of the unit this Spring."

Honored to march, Decker braved the cold weather and rigorous preparations.

"I was very cold and the parade was about an hour-and-a-half late getting started, so by the time we marched, we were in the fifth element out of six in the parade," Decker said. "It was dark, and the vast majority of the crowd had left. There were actually more police officers lining the parade route then there were spectators by the time we marched. It was about 14 hours of getting ready and waiting to march for about 30 - 45 minutes in the parade route. It was something neat to do one time, but I wouldn't want to do it again."

Although watching the inauguration on television may have been much more convenient, attending the event also had its benefits. Because President Obama is such an auspicious leader, his inauguration was an unforgettable experience.

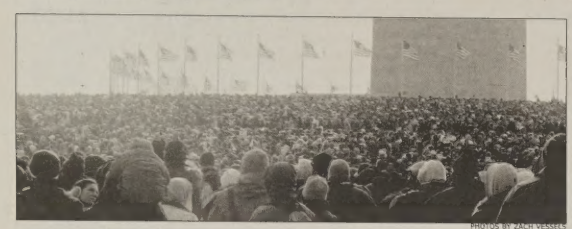
"I think all presidents have the potential to be great leaders, but I believe that presidents are also defined by major events that occur while they are in office, or as is the case for President Obama, events that happened before they came into office," Decker said. "If President Obama can implement policies that will lead to a speedy economic recovery, and if he can prosecute a more vigilant and successful War on Terror that reduces the United States' vulnerability to attacks even more, then I think the American public will look very favorably on his leadership."

Excitement and anticipation concerning Obama's presidency is expressed by students and teachers alike.

"He is intelligent and well-educated, but he has a very "real" background," Kristen Overdahl (10), a student who attended the inauguration, said. "His childhood and mixed ethnic backgrounds mean that he has faced prejudices and judgments in his life that make him aware of the attitudes of all groups; he does not represent a single racial body, but everyone."

The excitement over Obama's election certainly carried over to his inauguration, in which students experience huge crowds and confusion. However, most believed the experience to be worth the trouble.

"On Jan. 20, it didn't seem to matter whether or not a person was black or white, or what their story was or who they had been shaped by life to be; that day, everyone was an American," Overdahl said. "Everyone was celebrating history, the chance for new changes and the hope for a nation to push past boundaries. During the actual ceremony, there was definitely a sense though, not just of hope, but of being called to action. Everyone seemed to listen to Obama's speech as if they were holding their breath, as if they didn't want to miss a single word of it. It was definitely a moment to remember."



PHOTOS BY ZACH VESSELS

Left to right: Crowds wait anxiously preceding the swearing in of Barack Obama. Inauguration attendees flock to buses provided by the event coordinators. Estimates state that between 1 and 2 million people were in attendance for the ceremony.

HOUSE FIRE CONTINUED FROM 1A

"Pretty much the whole first floor collapsed into the basement. The upstairs was mostly smoke damage, but everything was ruined. We haven't been able to get anything from the house yet because they are still making sure that the floors are able to walk on."

With the house far from ready to be re-inhabited and everything inside left in ruins, the Foster family is living in the Hilton Garden Inn. Because nothing from the house was salvageable, the family has had to buy all new clothes and other everyday items.

While it is premature for the family to decide on a long term plan, Harry Foster assumes that his family will probably try to rebuild the house.

"I really miss my car," Harry Foster said. "I know that probably sounds shallow, but not having it sucks."

Reiterating the extent of the loss, Jamison shares in his brother's feelings.

"All our stuff is gone," Jamison Foster said. "It's weird having nothing left. I'll probably miss my family stuff the most, like pictures. We can't get that stuff back, which is what's worst."

As Harry and Jamison Foster endure the ordeal of recovering from the fire, other students share similar situations.

For example, Jenna Banas (11) recollects when a close family friend's house caught fire in the night about a year and a half ago, recalling the struggle it took to rebuild and how the family grew from the experience.

"It affected them in a huge way because they had to buy all new stuff and deal with a lot of insurance struggles," Banas said. "They moved into a rental home after the fire and didn't even move into a new permanent home until a year after the fire happened. It was amazing to me to see the process of recovery from the house burning down and how long it takes to readjust... They learned to not rely on possessions at all."

CLASS GRANT CONTINUED FROM 1A

two Best Buy Frisbees."

Although she has yet to decide exactly how the generous grant will be spent, Palmer is positive that the money will be used wisely to improve the department. The money may be used for climbing equipment, lab equipment, classroom materials or the maintenance of the environmental center.

In search of fresh ideas, Palmer asked some of her Ecology students for their opinions on how to spend the money.

"When Palmer told us about the grant, she was not sure how she was planning on spending the money, but she did ask for suggestions from the class," Sarah Uhey (11) said. "She mentioned using the money for new equipment for the rock wall, since it is getting old and is not as safe anymore."

Increasing the importance of the subject in and out of the classroom, the grant has given students a better perspective of the endless opportunities that the broad field of study entails. However the money is spent, it will surely make learning more interesting and efficient for students and teachers alike.

CLASS RANK CONTINUED FROM 1A

rately this system depicts a student's academic performance.

"Many of our students are at a disadvantage if they include class rank on their high-school transcript when applying for college," Bobish said. "Someone with a good GPA may rank at 100, but if they were at another school, that GPA would rank higher. At Homestead, we have a large number of strong students, so the competition is greater than at some other schools."

While some would say that class rank accurately depicts the academic hierarchy of a student body, it could also be said that the rank system provides a clear testament to the aggressive nature of the school's curriculum.

"We don't include class rank on transcripts unless it would be beneficial to the student," Hamilton said. "Indiana University has pressured us to print it, but it was hurting students because Homestead is so competitive. I would advise students in the top 10 percent of [his/her] class to include it, but it's completely optional. Personally, I think there's way too much emphasis on students comparing themselves to one another when they should be focusing on individual strengths."

Affirming the assertion that class rank does not accurately depict academic performance, students agree it should not be taken into consideration when determining college acceptance.

The system of ranking may solidify the numbers, but another contentious subject accompanying college application includes the incessantly divisive debate of weighted grades.

"Weighted grades reward AP and Honors students for taking a higher level class," Hamilton said. "For example, earning a B in an AP or Honors course might translate as an A on a college transcript if weighted grades were instituted. Committees have brought it up, but we already do a lot of internal curving that would be removed if grades were weighted."

Although the entire process may seem convoluted and excessively difficult at times, the fact remains that the system is merely acting in the best interest of the students.

"Weighted grades are a good thing, but the transcript should reflect that grades are weighted so that universities aren't being tricked," Joe Zurawski (12) said. "If everybody didn't worry so much about making straight A's and being ranked number one, maybe more students could go to college."

TLC CUTS CONTINUED FROM 1A

until marriage. To accommodate inquisitive students too shy to inquire during class, TLC teachers accepted written questions at the end of each meeting.

"...There was of course plenty of commentary that could take any teacher off track if allowed," Janelle Taylor, former TLC executive director, said. "However, our instructors were very accustomed to this, as were the classroom teachers, and questions were always written down and answered the next day so that inappropriate ones could be filtered out."

The program, however, gained notoriety among students over the years for its apparent subject matter — and sometimes sophomoric audience.

"There was a kind of mix between the students who were serious and who were just messing around," Anthony Natoli (9), a member of the last eighth-grade class at Woodside Middle School to be taught under the program, said. "[The ones messing around] would just sit there, they'd be giggling. They would write down the inappropriate questions. They didn't really interfere with the class, though."

As TLC established itself as a mainstay in the SACS curriculum, its abstinence-based approach attracted little criticism from the community, according to Taylor. Woodside and Summit Middle schools even offered potentially discontented participants to opt out before signing the permission form.

"In fact, the feedback I got from the students and their parents revealed how glad they were to have received valuable information on the topic of abstinence and the larger issues involved with premarital sexual activity," Taylor said.

The program's only documented conflict finally arose during the 2007-'08 school year, when district officials facing a budget crunch had to make what SACS Superintendent Brian Smith would later deem "tough choices." Taylor was informed by SACS Business Manager Jim Coplen and other administrators that the funding for TLC was in jeopardy.

Later in the year, following the passage of a statewide tax cap that would render a referendum more pertinent than ever, the message had become clear: True Life Choices would not be returning to the district in 2009.

"With the plethora of materials now available through several media services available to SACS teachers through AceLink and the Internet," Nancy Carey, SACS assistant superintendent, said in a statement on Jan. 26, "we are able to pick and choose materials that help us tailor our health education program to meet our specific goals and standards."

Carey, who handles curriculum development for the district, explained that True Life Choices only supplemented academic standards that range in topic from disease prevention to communication skills. After the group's departure, Indiana Academic Standards for Health continued to require the responsibilities of science, Skills for Adolescence, and physical education teachers to complete the requirements set forth by the district. Guidance counselors are also held accountable for said guidelines.

"Everyone was very disappointed," Taylor claimed. "It was evident that the TLC funding cut was part of the larger group of budget cuts for the 2008-'09 school year. So, while we were disappointed, we understood the fiscal realities the district was facing at the time."

By that time, though, the unstable economic climate had driven TLC into its own fiscal reality. Grants from organizations supporting health education had ebbed, corporate and private donations were dwindling and certain schools were struggling to pay fees. Although only one-sixth of TLC's operating costs were paid for with school funds, the program's board of directors had already decided its fate.

Then, as middle school students swarmed out of buses to embark on a new school year, the program shut down completely in September.

Sophomore 'shocked,' 'disappointed' over pregnancy

The first day of the 2008-'09 school year was not unlike any other of the 180 days to come. The combined carpool line outside of Woodside Middle and Covington Elementary schools formed a late summer haze through which high school students barreled at anxious speeds. In the front lawn of Summit Middle School, cars were parked bumper to bumper as students and their chauffeur parents patiently waited for the left turn signal. And somewhere, an 18-year-old brunette with thin-rimmed glasses was stepping out of her house into her second year as a Homestead Spartan.

Although the axing of True Life Choices did not leave a gaping hole in the curriculum — or students' daily lives, for that matter — it shined a light on a topic left unturned for nearly a decade and a half.

"It was a good program," Debra Squibb, Woodside science teacher, said. "We have no intention of doing anything other than [abstinence-based education]."

The only potential difference between the past and future of health education at SACS, Squibb explains, is a matter of preference. While TLC emphasized relationships as a backdrop for their abstinence theme, she hopes to "look a little more at the changes kids go through."

These changes, however, are not just an influence in the hallways of high schoolers' alma mater Trailblazers and Cyber Sevens. Last November, Homestead junior Paige Wall experienced a change 750,000 other U.S. teenagers will learn of before 2010: She was pregnant.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one-third of teenage girls in the United States will discover the same truth before blowing out the candles on their 20th birthday cake.

"It kind of disappointed me and shocked me at the same time," Wall said. "I was disappointed with what had happened. I'm still young and in school."

After transferring from North Side High School to Homestead for the 2007-'08 school year, she began dating William "Bubba" Galilei (11), a Summit Middle School graduate. She does not recall any type of sexual health education at her former school district.

FWCS Curriculum Services Coordinator Joanne Schafer begs to differ.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Two months ago, Paige Wall (11) learned she was pregnant. Now, with a group of closeknit family and friends supporting her "100 percent," she believes she is ready to face the challenges ahead.

According to Schafer, the authority on science, world language, physical education and health standards at Homestead's neighbor district, instruction begins as early as third grade, when students are informed of building positive relationships. During seventh and eighth grades, the time in which TLC's teachers would occupy SACS science classrooms, FWCS middle schoolers are introduced to an abstinence-based approach to sexual anatomy and birth conception. These lessons are taught by science teachers with adjunct aid from school nurses.

"It's more of a cross-curricular effort," Schafer said.

Wall, who does not attribute her situation to peer pressure, expects her peers to know better than to turn a deaf ear to abstinence-based education.

"Even though you think you might not get pregnant, you're wrong because it can happen to you and it probably will," Wall said. "You shouldn't go through that and be put through that."

On the contrary, not every Hoosier believes abstinence should be the sole subject of sex education. Formed in 2003, Get Real, Indiana! is a coalition backed by more than 40 statewide organizations sharing one common belief: Although abstinence is an acceptable practice, teens should also be educated on contraceptives and other preventive methods.

"The teen pregnancy rate in the United States is up for the first time since 1991, despite the spending of about $1.5 billion on abstinence-only sexuality education," Kate Shepherd, Planned Parenthood of Indiana's Director of Communications, said. "It's clear that approach is not working."

Regardless of Get Real, Indiana!'s partnerships with Purdue and Indiana universities, it remains a question whether secondary schools are ready for a change in modus operandi or not. To some, including Ravi Vemula (11), the answer is simple: Change nothing.

"I think that sex education is at the right level in Indiana because it teaches students early on the potential risks and consequences that it could have," Vemula said, "and adults can also take classes voluntarily and thus be informed on the latest in contraception and pregnancy risks."

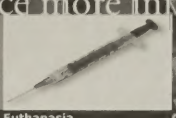
Still, as Paige Wall's June due date nears closer, she echoes a tip that was often drowned out by immature snickers as Janelle's Taylor aides scrawled diagrams on classroom chalkboards.

Her parting advice? "Wait as long as you can."

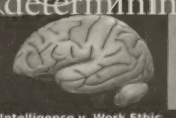
OPINION

ed board argues diligence more influential in determining success, 3a

page 3a
issue 9 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814


Euthanasia

Obama Inauguration


Intelligence v. Work Ethic

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

LEFT AND WRITE | Doctor Assisted Suicide: Painless or Pitiful?

'Right to die' remains choice of patients

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Each year, thousands of people endure their last months of life wheezing, as each breath lays a dagger into their lungs. They die slowly and painfully, coughing out their blood and lungs, nauseous and unaware of their surroundings. Meanwhile, physicians are hesitant to prescribe narcotics for the pain in fear of suppressing their failing respiratory system. Each year, over 150,000 Americans experience this painful death due to lung cancer.

Physician-assisted suicide is not a means to legalize suicide, rather the only chance for willing, terminally ill patients to pass away with dignity instead of pain. Although accepted in foreign countries, only two U.S. states, Oregon and Washington, have successfully permitted physician-assisted suicide. After diagnosis by two physicians, terminally ill patients with at most six months to live can choose a lethal prescription that provides an allegedly quick and painless death.

The right of a citizen to take his or her own life has been a debated topic, yet the circumstances pertaining to physician-assisted suicide are much different. Citizens of a democratic nation have the right to choose a quick, painless path over a long, decaying death. Medicine has been a tool with which to improve the human condition, so why not use it to aid the situation against nature's most powerful human killer?

Patients too unstable to request murder

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

Euthanasia should not be legalized. If endorsed as a means of health care containment, the procedure could create the profoundly dangerous scenario in which doctors get paid more, should a patient "choose" death over long-term care, tempting physicians to promote assisted suicide, even in curable cases.

Although many argue that the right to death should be left to individual discretion, perhaps they should reexamine why any sane person would seek to commit suicide in the first place. Is not such a crime the result of an instable mindset? Usually, the true problem lies in the individual's mental disorder, loss of hope, hurt feelings or severe depression — all issues for which help is readily available.

Masquerading as a nonviolent option for those who are destined to commit suicide, euthanasia is rather a last resort for those who silently cry for help from destitute and irresolute souls who potentially could be saved. Men who are truly insane or otherwise intent to kill themselves would go to any length to do so -- moral or immoral, clean or unclean, euthanasia or gunshot. Therefore, euthanasia does not prevent violent suicide, but rather promotes death as an accessible escape route for any and all of life's problems, creating a weak and demoralized human race incapable of anything, but complete submission to absolute destruction.

Ed board: nature versus nurture, secrets to success

Some people are lucky enough to be born smart. Glorified in their youth as Alpha students and favored with Advanced Placement classes thereafter, this select collection of the student body seems to withstand even the most rigorous courses, completing class work with ease and in time to spare. While other students pine away over schoolwork, stressing over assignments and carefully dissecting complex lectures in a binder bursting with notes, these effortlessly pristine few remain relaxed and poised to pass any exam. In fact, most naturally "gifted" students do not even study, relying solely on their inborn intelligence to carry them through high school, college and successfully into the workforce. However, child geniuses are sure to meet post graduation rivals that challenge their natural talent, forcing them to put forth effort to reach and attain the lofty goals they aspire.

When faced with the demands of upper level courses and the competitive nature of the work force, students who were once able to drift through classes without consequences will find themselves incapable and ill-prepared. Because every man bears flaws that define him as a human being, it is impossible for any man to attain the intelligence to excel in every facet of understanding. Therefore, without pushing ourselves to apply the knowledge with which we are endowed, we deny ourselves the extent of our intellectual capacity.

Work ethic materializes intelligence. Although an average aptitude is required to stimulate productivity, intellect alone cannot obtain success, unless it is sustained by a steady input of effort — even masterminds must muster motivation to make an impact. In fact, Thomas Jefferson once said, "I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it." Although life is a game of chance, achievement is a product of choice.

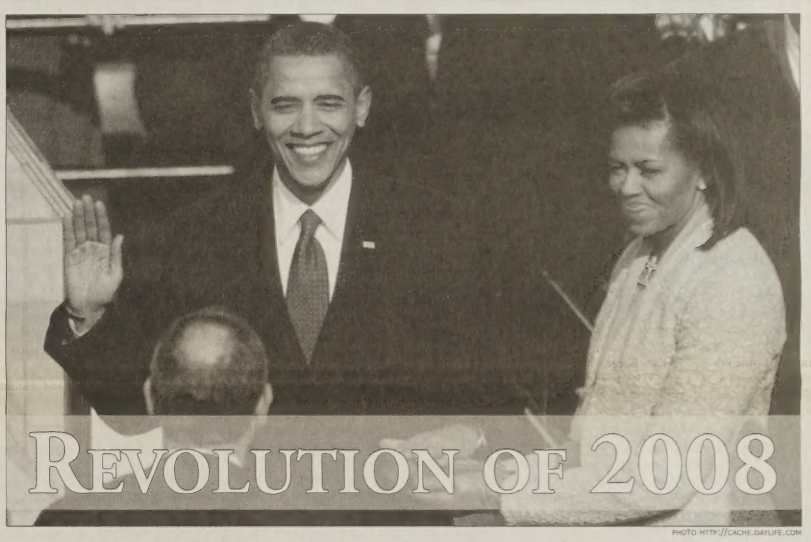


PHOTO HTTP://CACHE.DAYLIFE.COM

Hope restored with inauguration of Obama

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

While the feverish political passion and epic fervor of President Obama's revolutionary campaign dwindle to a lull of anxious expectation, they yield to alternately both suspicious trepidation and steadfast faith. In the anxious weeks following the inauguration, fraught with numerous crises for the new administration to mend, even a blind eye can discern a fact steadily illuminating itself — that something in the ground beneath America has shifted.

Gone are the days of hemorrhaging money into senseless bloodshed in the Middle East, doggedly passing laws to prohibit the inherent freedoms of American citizens and remaining stalwartly ignorant to the nation's rising economic crisis, driven out to welcome a foreign entity of which America has seen scarce evidence in the new millennium of change.

> The election of President Obama has brought into the Oval Office a politician...with a dependable hand and a clear mandate, someone capable of deliverance from the descent into recession and worse evils.
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> Writer

Faced by an imploding economy, a futile war for which both support and enthusiasm have vanished and a progressive likelihood of recession, one might say that President Obama has received the desolate inheritance of not only policies sown by George W. Bush, but by Bill Clinton as well. While the obstacles challenging Obama are momentous, so is his potential. His solid, explicitly clear-cut directive and a Congress unified under Democratic majority leave him well equipped to reconcile the plentiful dilemmas bombarding America that the previous administration preferred to sit back and allow to fester.

Current events elucidate the emergent truth of the world's disparaging perspective of America as a self-centered, wasteful nation, too rooted in superficial pursuits to take part in anything of substance. The time has come to contradict this escalating perception and prove that the United States is a nation of strength and fortitude, a nation with the aptitude to repair its mistakes and from them evolve — a nation with the capacity to change.

The dire necessity of change has lingered on the horizon since the basest whispers of the election began, reflected in the bleak situation of citizens across the country and in the aching, weary hearts of soldiers tirelessly fighting the petty battles of a distant place where the meddling of the United States does not belong. The election of President Obama has brought into the Oval Office a politician who acknowledges the need for something that Washington can no longer ignore; someone with a dependable hand and a clear mandate, someone capable of deliverance from the descent into recession and worse evils.

An incredible sense of collective purpose pervaded the awestruck silence across America as Obama took to the steps of a capitol built by slaves, and America again looked to a black man to rebuild the nation. Barack Obama has proven that the United States can collectively dig itself out of its recent hole, that diversity defines the nation and that shreds of validity still cling to the American dream.

As Obama takes the presidential office, it has become clear that something in the lax, laissez-faire American public of previous elections has shifted, that history has been made and that, even faced with insurmountable odds, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

students share their experiences of living with food allergies, 5a

page 4a
issue 9 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Teachers on Facebook | Food Allergies | Switch to Digital TV

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

digital DEADLINE

BY BRADLEY ADAMSON
WRITER

The much anticipated switch to digital television (DTV) will be happening on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Federal law states that on this date all analog broadcasts must switch to digital and every person using antennas to receive these broadcasts must obtain a digital converter box in order to be able to keep viewing local stations.

The switch to digital means more than just buying a converter box, as these boxes must also be set up properly. The antenna is a necessity for picking up channels, so it must to be plugged into the converter box in order for the broadcasts to be picked up. The digital frequencies are similar to those of analog; however, one digital frequency can send out three or more signals for each channel, compared to one analog frequency per channel. As a result, more programs can be shown in one broadcast with digital frequency.

People with a converter box should scan for channels once after Feb. 17 to receive every channel and should periodically scan for more channels after that. The scan can be done by going through the television menu and selecting the category "Auto Scan." This process will take a few minutes, but once it is done, it may pick up new channels.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) insists that the switch will be ready on time and that every household will be ready for it. However, many people, including President Barack Obama, want the switch to digital to be pushed to a later date.

"I think that [the switch] is needed but I think it might be too soon," radio and television teacher Mr. Adam Schenkel said.

In contrast, some students think that the change isn't needed at all.

"I think that [the switch] is dumb, expensive and worthless," Jalen Prewett (10) said.

In addition to the fact that the switch to digital is not completely ready, a few channels are having trouble broadcasting to the fullest. Some channels have just recently switched over to digital and are having minor troubles remaining on the air.

"The big difference between digital and analog is that with analog, you can pick up a channel with 50% of a signal," Schenkel said. "It might be snowy or fuzzy, but there should be a picture and audio. With digital, it will be 100% or nothing, and there may be more problems."

Great picture quality is something that many people that buy a digital box may expect. However, clarity only minimally improves with a digital converter box. The box must be set to stretch images onto a television screen, which then distorts and stretches the image, causing clarity problems.

"Digital is much better than analog," Schenkel said. "Picture a DVD player compared to a VCR."

Anyone wanting to watch TV must buy a converter box unless they have a cable or satellite service with which they receive local channels. This required purchase has caused controversy among TV watchers.

"I think buying a converter box is a bother," Beth Gigler (12) said. "[The switch] requires people to buy something that they may or may not have the money to buy at that time, but it leaves them with no choice if they want to watch TV."

> "I believe this conversion is needed. There's always a chance for problems during the early stages [of a process like the switch] and now it's starting to show."
>
> **ADAM SCHENKEL**
> Radio and Television teacher

In an attempt to help citizens with box fees, the government began to issue $40 coupons to people forced into buying a converter box, with a limit of two coupons per household. However, unexpected demand has left no more funds for the coupons and a waiting list has been started.

"I think the coupon idea could have been structured better," Schenkel said. "I believe this conversion is needed. There's always a chance for problems during the early stages [of a process like the switch] and now it's starting to show."

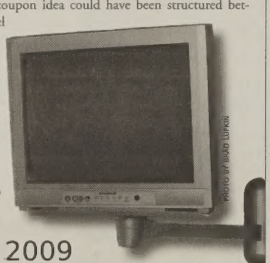


PHOTO BY JUDD LEWIS

THE DEADLINE: FEB. 17, 2009

Seniors graduating early choose to use semester as transition

BY AREZOO NAZARI
WRITER

June 13, 2009. It is the date high school seniors are counting down toward. It is the day they can finally say that they have completed high school and can move on to a new phase in their life. The new perspective students will gain from this experience will lead them to opportunities and effective learning outside the classroom. However, a number of students have chosen to start this segment of their life earlier that mid-June by graduating after the first semester of the school year.

Students who have chosen this path will use the opportunity to work and save money for college, start college classes earlier or simply get out of high school sooner. Some choose to travel and explore the world before they start college in the fall. On the other hand, many limit their colleges choice due to economic troubles.

"Next fall, I will be staying in town and attending IPFW. I was accepted to five universities, yet college costs have forced me to choose the cheaper option. Our country is crumbling due to debt, and I will not graduate college with huge loans lingering over my head," Deanna Charcala (12) said.

INCREASING COST OF COLLEGE

Cost of public four-year college: $6,585 (up 6.4 percent from last year)

Earnings working for five days per week for four months at minimum wage: $4,716

SOURCE: WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM

Every year there are a fraction of students who decide to take the route of graduating early, and this year's number reached 24. The majority of students take on college full time, and others decide to work to pay for college the next year.

"I plan on working this spring to help me pay for some of the expenses [of college]. I am also going to volunteer at Fort Wayne Orthopedics in the physical therapy wing because I intend to study in that area," Megan Davis (12) said.

Many students, like Davis, choose this course, as well; however, some also incorporate being a full time student. By starting college early, some of the classes that the graduates would have to take in their first year of college will be completed, making moving on to specializing in their desired major an easier task.

"The main reason I graduated sooner was to be able to work full time and be a college student full time. It really works with my schedule, and I even get to sleep in," Jacob Evans (12) said.

For some students, leaving high school early allows them to expand their horizons, giving them options that were not provided to them during their three and a half years of high school. Others use this opportunity to enjoy their last couple of months with their friends and stick with the high school life.

"I think for some people finishing early is the right thing to do because they need to work, or other things become more important. But in general, I think people should enjoy the time they have in high school and then go to college and enjoy the life they will have there," Andy Mockler (12), who is not graduating early, said.

There are only a four months left for the remaining seniors. They are soon going to find out what it feels like to leave high school and start a new journey. The seniors who have already graduated may be ahead of the game on what to expect, but neither graduates nor current seniors will make the complete transition to the next chapter of their lives until they settle down at a college for the fall semester of next year.

It's Facebook official: Teachers log in

Faculty befriend students on social networking sites, communicate outside of classroom

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Facebook currently has more than 150 million active users worldwide and is the most popular social networking website, ranking 5th among all websites in terms of worldwide traffic, according to Alexa Internet Inc. Facebook connects friends, family, classmates, colleagues and acquaintances, providing a social haven and linking network for all.

While students are free to socialize with each other on Facebook and other social networking websites, it has become debatable whether or not students and teachers should be allowed to interact through these means.

"I definitely think it should be all right to be friends with teachers on Facebook, whether it is just to get advice sometimes or to ask about school. Teachers really are a big factor in some student's lives, and we shouldn't be kept from befriending them," Alyssa Hinderman (9) said.

Students often do not perceive teachers as potential friends in normal classroom settings; they commonly view teachers as adults who simply cannot empathize with them because of age differences or lack of common interests. A Facebook friendship would only complicate the teacher-student relationship for students with these opinions.

"I don't believe teachers and students should be friends on Facebook," Nicolette LaRue (11) said. "It makes the relationship awkward and unprofessional. I, personally, would not be comfortable having a teacher as a friend on Facebook. It is just another way for the administration to pry into our lives."

Some teachers have these feelings in common with students, as well. Privacy is a major concern for some teachers, who believe it is inappropriate to invite students into their private lives.

"I think it presents an awkward situation because, for me, [communicating through Facebook is just like a phone conversation, and I don't think I should be talking to students on the phone because it presents a kind of closeness that probably shouldn't be there," history teacher Mr. Jon Baker said.

> "[Facebook] helps me get to know [my students] and I use that information in the classroom. I'll mention something and we communicate and share things."
>
> **JAN VENDERLY**
> English teacher

However, other teachers disagree and wish to establish a more comfortable relationship with students, where there is no hesitation on the student's part to approach the teacher via the internet.

English teacher Ms. Jan Venderly accepts friend requests from students on Facebook in order to use it as a tool to become more familiar with students' opinions, interests, activities and personalities.

"Facebook, for me, is a way to see what is important to students in their daily lives and their personal lives, and I think that helps me remember what is significant to students and what their world is like. It helps me get to know them and I use that information in the classroom. I'll mention something and we communicate and share things," Venderly said.

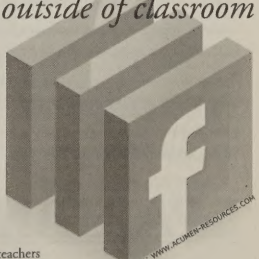


PHOTO: WWW.ACUMEN-RESOURCES.COM

At the same time, students and teachers becoming friends on Facebook can present problems for teachers regarding the content of students' profiles.

"I have had a couple of students who have used profanity on their Facebook and I am uncomfortable with that, so I have had to remove them from my friends list," Venderly said.

For Venderly, privacy on Facebook is never an issue because she offers a limited amount of information about herself on her profile.

"I have never really put anything really personal on there because Facebook is a social network. This is a side of me that I am willing to share with students because it's appropriate," Venderly said. "I think that in building relationships and rounding out the person, it's a valuable exchange and we're able to share a commonality. You can reach students better if you know what their world is like."

Levels of disrespect reach new heights

With second semester officially underway, I've learned many things—more Spanish verb tenses than any one person needs to know, enough grammar rules to write my own edition of Elements of Style and so many psychological conditions and disorders that I've started to profile the passersby in the hallways with stunning accuracy. But one question I'm just dying to get an answer to is quite simple. How old are we?

First grade math tells me that the obvious answer is somewhere between the ages of 14 and 18, which is rather surprising, considering the behavior of my fellow classmates. I've thought the problem over and have concluded that it all boils down to respect — or the lack there of.

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
LIFE EDITOR

Now, I'll be the first to admit to hating "the man," but the truth is that my disdain for "big brother" does not encompass any Homestead staff. The teachers I've had thus far have been amazing and thoroughly enjoyable. But let's say you're not like me, and you've had more bad experiences with teachers than you can count. We still have one thing in common: you and I both owe our respect to the fine people that have to put up with us everyday. Getting along with someone and respecting someone are two separate issues; leave your feelings at the door and do as your teacher asks.

While I don't agree with it, I can see why students disrespect teachers, but why the disrespect for fellow students? We're all in this together — be nice to one another. The stuff on my desk is mine, including, but not limited to, my purse, my books and my test answers. I'm probably willing to share if you just ask. And whatever happened to that motherly proverb, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it at all?" I probably do realize my haircut is ugly — I don't need you to point it out to me.

> "We're all in this together — be nice to one another."
>
> **HANA SVETLOVICS**
> Life Editor

By far, lunch room habits need the most improvement. By 12:20 I'm just as hungry as you are, and I hate "C" lunch just as much as you do, but that doesn't give you the right to cut me in line. (I have a little secret for you. The food's flavor is not based on your position in line; it tastes the same regardless).

Once you are finished eating, have you ever noticed that cardboard thing that's left sitting on the table? This is called a tray, my friends, and it goes into one of those giant buckets (called trash cans, for those of us keeping score at home) placed conveniently throughout the cafeteria. In addition, we're all human; spills happen. There's no limit on the amount of napkins you can take; it's not a big deal to clean up after yourself.

The lunch ladies cook your food, section it into individual servings and have to talk to you in your feeble, hungry state. They should not have to pick up after you. Your mother may do it (even though she shouldn't), but they have other, more important tasks that their jobs entail.

While we're on the topic of cleaning up, every other Friday when the paper comes out, I see dozens of copies of my beloved Spartana crumpled up in balls on the floor before I make it to the parking lot. Instead of throwing it on the ground when you're done with it, try playing some trash can basketball. Unfortunately, just like in real basketball, points can only be counted if you actually get it in. If you miss the first time, go for the rebound.

In the words of Aretha Franklin, "Queen of Soul," all I'm askin' is for a little respect.

YOU CAN'T RUN BUT YOU CAN HIVE

Food allergies force students to follow strict diets, watch meal plans

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

Everyone needs to eat. It is a basic fact of life, and there are certain foods that everybody needs. Fruit, vegetables, meats and grains are mandated for a healthy diet, and the sweets that everyone loves are a simple joy. However, various health problems do restrict the diets of many people.

Health problems such as allergies, diabetes and celiac disease are more common than people often think.

Celiac disease occurs when the body cannot digest gluten, which is found in most grains. People who have celiac disease and are not diagnosed have an increased risk of developing gastrointestinal cancer and also have a higher risk of developing osteoporosis.

Celiac disease was once thought to be a very rare disease that mainly targeted children, but recently, that view has changed. Approximately one in every 133 Americans has celiac disease. However, despite this large number, only one in every 4,700 people is ever diagnosed. The symptoms include weakness, bone pain, weight loss, abdominal bloating and diarrhea.

Luckily, Megan Todd (12) and Brittni Schneider (11) have both been diagnosed. Todd was sixteen when she was diagnosed and has been eating a restricted diet for the past two years. Her mother took her to a doctor's appointment and mentioned that she had been pale and tired. Her iron levels were so low that she underwent blood tests. Todd considers herself "very lucky," in spite of her dietary restrictions, because her diagnosis took place only a month after her symptoms were noticed.

Schneider, unlike Todd, has known of her condition since she was an infant. She was taken to Riley's Children Hospital because she was malnourished as a result of her inability to digest the solid food she had started to eat.

"I looked like an African baby with a really skinny neck and a big stomach," Schneider said.

Both girls will have to follow a diet free of gluten for the rest of their lives. The food that Todd would most like to eat is the candy that she has been purposely avoiding for the past two years. Candy is off limits for her due to the gluten contained in the malt of the treats.

Schneider has never had what would usually be considered a normal diet. The food that she would like to try the most is pizza.

"It just smells so good," Schneider said.

Unfortunately for the families of the girls, celiac disease is genetic. Todd's mother, father and sister have the gene that contains celiac disease but are not affected with its symptoms.

"Just because you have the gene [does not] mean it is active," Todd said.

While celiac disease does not threaten a person's life, Schneider has a good incentive to avoid eating any kind of food that contains gluten. If she strays from her designated diet she becomes very ill and sick to her stomach.

"It is really not worth it to eat anything outside of [my] diet because I suffer a lot of pain," Schneider said.

Todd said that before she was diagnosed, she had frequent headaches and was often tired. "Now if I eat something containing gluten I just get a bad stomachache," Todd said.

Not all stomach problems can be diagnosed and Natalie Spurgeon (11) is a perfect example of this fact. She has been on an extremely strict diet of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, chicken and tuna for two weeks due to stomach problems that have been plaguing her for about a month and a half. She is expected to follow this diet for the next four weeks and will hopefully discover the cause of her stomach issues.

"The doctor kind of just pulled the diet out of his head," Spurgeon said.

If she does not follow her diet her stomach will go into a spasm, but it is difficult for Spurgeon to follow such a strict diet. Her mother follows the diet with her, although, according to Spurgeon, it doesn't matter if her family continues to eat regularly.

Although Todd and Schneider will have to follow gluten free diets for the rest of their lives, Spurgeon hopes to be able to return to a less rigid diet soon.

CHANGING FOR CELIAC DISEASE

After being diagnosed with Celiac disease, Megan Todd (12) has had to alter her eating habits. At home, she buys most of her gluten-free foods online in bulk orders to save money. With the help of a kit she orders online, Todd makes her own sandwich bread every week or two. Since she has eliminated gluten from her diet, Todd said she eats healthier and feels like she has more energy. There are some new foods Todd has discovered amongst her diet change: she loves 100% fruit bars because they taste like fruit roll ups.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DIETLER

FACING THE FACTS: FOOD ALLERGIES

Approximately 12 million Americans suffer from food allergy, with 6.9 million allergic to seafood.
HTTP://WWW.AAAAI.ORG/MEDIA/RESOURCES/MEDIA_KIT/ALLERGY_STATISTICS.STM

Milk allergy is the most common food allergy in early childhood. It affects somewhere between 2% and 3% of infants in developed countries.
HTTP://WWW.NCBI.NLM.NIH.GOV/PUBMED/12487202

Peanut or tree nut allergies affect approximately 0.6 percent and 0.4 percent of Americans, respectively, and cause the most severe food-induced allergic reactions.
HTTP://MEDICINEWORLD.ORG/MEDICINE/ALLERGY/ALLERGY-STATISTICS.HTML

More people in America suffer from Celiac disease, a wheat allergy, than people who suffer from epilepsy, Crohn's disease, Multiple Sclerosis or Cystic Fibrosis.
WWW.CELIAC.COM

Flu shots are incubated in chicken eggs; depending on the severity of the allergy, people allergic to eggs may be unable to obtain a vaccine during flu season.
HTTP://FOODALLERGIES.ABOUT.COM/OD/EGGALLERGIES/P/EGGALLERGIES.HTM

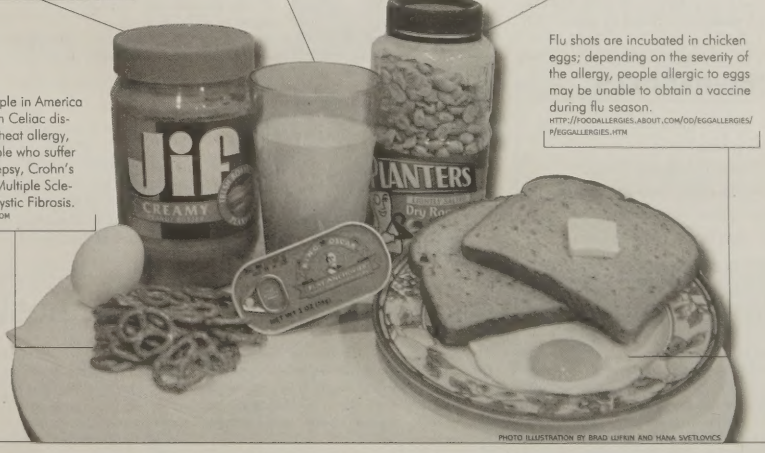


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD LUFKIN AND HANA SVETLOVICS

The Retrospect
THE YEARBOOK OF HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS, leave a lasting high school memory for your student by ordering a senior ad in the yearbook. Information can be found in the Main and Guidance Offfices as well as on the school website.

STUDENTS AND PARENTS, the Yearbook Staff invites you to submit photos for the yearbook.

Follow these simple directions to submit photos online:

- Go to: http://images.jostens.com
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter user name:**1178831** and password:**Homestead**
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details."

SPORTS

underclassmen gymnasts show strong future potential, 7a

page 6a
issue 9 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Swim 'Family'

Patches

Mallory Harber (12)

Advancing wrestlers seek placement at regional, state level

BY ANDY FRANKLIN
COPY EDITOR

After placing third in the conference tournament and advancing to the team regional competition last year, the varsity wrestling team has carried its winning ways into this year. The team finished the regular season with a 5-2 record in conference dual meets and a 12-2 record overall. The team also took 7th at the Mooresville Holiday Classic, 1st at the New Haven Invitational, and 2nd at the Concordia Invitational. The wrestlers' winning regular season was capped off last weekend with a second straight third place finish at the Northeast Hoosier Conference tournament.

The squad's strong performance at the conference meet was anchored by championships from Andy Franklin (11) at the 112 lb. weight class and Tucker Smith (11) at the 125 lb. weight class. Of the team's 14 varsity wrestlers, 11 placed sixth or better and seven placed in the top three. The team scored 158.5 points overall, just behind second-place Carroll's 177.5 points. Bellmont won the tournament with a team score of 242.5

"I think we did pretty well," Coach Randy Pursley said. "We'd always like to place higher and there were some matches that we'd like to have back, but it was good to place third going into sectionals."

Smith put on a dominant display at the tournament, winning two of his matches by first-period pins, including the championship match over junior Carlin Hormann of Bellmont, and one by technical fall. Franklin beat top-seeded senior Brandon Tucker of Norwell in his finals match by a score of 8-4. Bobby Natusch (12) also wrestled well, making the finals with an exciting 13-12 decision over sophomore Tyler Truax of East Noble, despite falling in the championship match. Keelan Rushing (10), Justin Carter (12), Brad Mills (10) and Harry Foster (12) also rounded off the team's successful day with third place finishes in the 119 lb., 189 lb., 215 lb. and 285 lb. weight classes, respectively.

"I think we did really well as a team at conference," said Smith. "We took third again, which is the best the team has done. I was really glad I finally won conference myself, because it was about time after I finished second in the tournament the last two years to same person."

The team looked to ride the momentum of their conference finish into the postseason. Last weekend, the wrestlers competed in the sectional tournament at New Haven High School. They placed second as a team behind rival New Haven, after beating them head-to-head and finishing ahead of them in the conference tournament. Mills and Foster capped off the day with first-place finishes in their respective weight classes. The nine individual wrestlers who placed in the top four at the sectional tournament advanced onto the individual regional tournament, which will be held at Carroll High School on Feb. 7.

"I would like to make it to state this year. I believe if I wrestle well I should be able to." Mills said.

NHC RESULTS

-11 of the 14 varsity wrestlers finished 6th place or better
-7 of those 11 placed in the top 3
-The team scored 158.5 points overall
-Team placed 3rd out of 10 teams
-29 points behind 2nd place Carroll

"PATCHES ARE PATCHES.
THEY REPRESENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE BY THE ATHLETE. TRACK GETS VERY LITTLE PUBLIC ATTENTION OR FUNDING. SO WHILE FOOTBALL PLAYERS GET THE GLORY OF PLAYING IN FRONT OF THOUSANDS OF FANS, TRACK GETS PATCHES. IF ATHLETES OF OTHER SPORTS WANT PATCHES, THEY SHOULD JUST BUY THEM. -KYLE BEUTLER (12)"
PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Varsity athletes have mixed feelings about inconsistent patch distribution

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

Letter jackets fill the halls in the winter, their blue base and yellow lettering moving from class to class. Depending on the sport one plays, however, some jackets can be more decorated than others. Patches represent one's success in his or her respective sports, but some sports allow members to gain more patches, causing athletes to wonder why their jacket looks emptier than others.

Members of any sport can earn a letter for playing on the varsity squad, along with a patch for their accomplishments as a team. Team accomplishments include winning the conference championship, along with postseason events including sectionals and regionals. Individuals are awarded patches in sports such as swimming and track for placing in their respective events.

Swimmers and runners have an advantage in earning more patches because they can earn patches for team accomplishments as well as individual accomplishments.

With both individual and team accomplishments represented on his jacket in the form of patches, four-year varsity swimmer Anderson Whipp (12) knows the feeling of having team and individual patches.

"I believe it is completely fair that swimmers have the opportunity to earn individual patches. The swim team accomplishes great things; however, each and every individual competes in scored and official races. There is no point scale for an individual during each game in a sport such as basketball," Whipp said.

Melissa Harber (12) has the chance to earn a patch as a team member but not as an individual because she is a softball player.

"I think it is fair that the swim team gets more patches because they are the team that puts the most work into their sport. They always have a lot of success. They are one of the best teams and have some of the top swimmers in the state, so having more patches allows them to show how good they are," Harber said.

Another way to earn a coveted patch in any varsity sport is by making first team all-conference. However, second team all-conference recipients receive no patch for their efforts during the season.

"Athletes who are awarded second team all-conference should also be recognized for their achievements by receiving a patch," Harber said.

Through his experiences on the football and track teams, Kyle Beutler (12) has gained both individual and team patches.

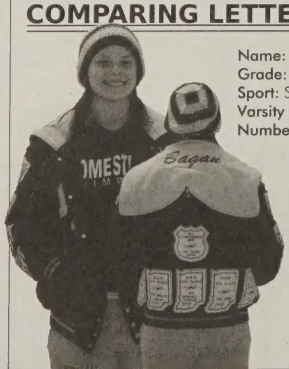
"Patches are patches. They represent accomplishments made by the athlete. Track gets very little public attention or funding, so while football players get the glory of playing in front of thousands of fans, track runners get patches," Beutler said.

The golf team, unlike the swimming and track teams, gets only one patch for both individual and team accomplishments. Golf is a team sport, but is also an individual sport as golfers can advance in the postseason without the team.

"Last year, I won sectional, got second at regional and eighth at state. I made the all-state team too. I got one patch with 'All State' on it. I thought that was a little unfair. Both the team and individual should get a separate patch for conference, sectional, regional and state championships," Al Jennings (11) said.

Patches are worn on jackets like a medal around the neck of an Olympic athlete. Varsity athletes are very proud of their accomplishments and wish to make the public aware of them. Some athletes get the glory of playing in front of thousands of fans. For the lesser publicized sports, patches serve as a gauge of success.

COMPARING LETTER JACKETS



Name: Tori Bagan
Grade: 10
Sport: Swimming
Varsity Experience: 1 season
Number of Patches: 6

Name: Kyle Beutler
Grade: 12
Sport: Football
Varsity Experience: 3 seasons
Sport: Track
Varsity Experience: 4 seasons
Number of Patches: 7

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE HANAUER

Wintry mix obscures basketball schedule, postpones five games

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

As if the tough opponents were not hard enough on a team, the recent uncooperative weather has made it a lot tougher. Both the boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams have dealt with postponements of key conference games due to inclement weather. With the postponed games forced to be rescheduled, many of the players have mixed feelings as to whether it helps the team prepare for the game, or just disappoints the team on the day of the game.

After a sporting a 3-1 record to open the season, the boys' team looked to start off conference play with a home game against rival Carroll on Dec. 19. But in the middle of the night, an ice storm hit the Fort Wayne area and forced the school to close, which in result postponed the game.

"I was a little disappointed that the game against Carroll had to be postponed before break," Mike Bradley (12), senior captain of the basketball team, said. "The whole team was hyped for the game and it just let the air out."

In the week leading up to the Carroll game, the boys' team prepared for the Chargers by going over what they might see during the game. They went over both Carroll's offensive and defensive set ups, and what they planned to do to stop them. After the difficult week of thorough preparation, the players had a team dinner at a teammate's house, which is a weekly tradition for the guys.

"To do all of that in a week and have the game postponed just really disappointed me," Bradley said. "But we really cannot do anything about it."

The game against Carroll has been rescheduled for Feb. 14, nearly two months after the original scheduled date. After the winter break, the team had another conference game postponed, this time a road game against East Noble.

Aside from the postponed games, the team lost to Huntington North on the final weekend of winter break, won games against Concordia and conference opponent Columbia City and eventually lost to North Side. Even with extra time to prepare for East Noble, the team lost 45-53, dropping their first conference game of the year.

The boys' team was not the only basketball team affected by the weather. The girls' basketball team has also had several of their games postponed for the same reasons. The girls' team prepares for games in similar fashion to the boys' team by focusing on what the opposing team's tendencies are. For bigger conference games, a lot more focus and effort is put into practice to help their chances on game-day. Having their games postponed brings some grief to several players. Overall, the girls had games against Angola and East Noble postponed.

"I hated that the games were cancelled, but I know that [Athletic Director Joe Updegrove] did everything he could do to get us to play," Nikki Wilson (12), senior captain of the girls' basketball team, said. "One of the days we were cancelled we were still able to play because of him."

The girls' team hit a hot streak last week, winning consecutive games against Wayne and Bellmont, as well as achieving a late win versus East Noble.

As the weather begins to cooperate as spring approaches, the teams hope that the weather will not be as unfriendly. Depending on which team members one speaks to, the postponements have either helped or hurt the psyche and mindset of the boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams. Earlier in the season, people were whistling to the tune of Let it Snow. Now, the whistling has stopped, as the players are thinking, "Let us play, let us play let us play."

RESCHEDULED GAMES

BOYS' BASKETBALL (9-4)

Jan. 22 at East Noble
Feb. 4 vs. Luers (Freshmen only)
Feb. 14 vs. Carrol

GIRLS' BASKETBALL (11-7)

Jan. 24 vs. Angola
Jan. 29 vs. East Noble

Common sports rival could create 'memorable matchups'

We see them on all levels of athletic competition, from the Yankees and Red Sox, to the Tar Heels and Blue Devils, to the Wildcats and Ducks of a local Y-Ball league. Rivalries in sports are important to the athletic atmosphere, as they give players, coaches, and fans alike an opportunity to get up for one opponent in particular. Players tend to play with more passion, coaches tend to prepare with more vigor, and fans tend to yell and scream even more for their team.

Rivalries in sports give so much more to the game at hand. When teams are not having the greatest of seasons, they often look towards the game against their rival, for a win against them could make their season worth remembering. NBA, NFL, and MLB teams all have rivalries that have been highly publicized over the years. College sports programs depend on rivalries for a revenue stream and source of interest amongst students and fans.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

Yet, rivalries on the high school level rarely have the same meaning or the same relevancy as rivalries on the larger stages. Rivalries exist among high schools in the Summit City such as Bishop Dwenger vs. Bishop Luers and North Side vs. South Side, but it seems as though our school has either no set rival or a different rival in every sport, taking away from the definition of a true rival.

We have the "Money Game" against Canterbury in soccer, the seemingly annual Sectional football game against Snider, and the cross-town basketball matchup against Carroll. These are all great rivalries in their own respect, but the idea of a rivalry is to have all teams of all sports have the same passion, the same pride in preparing for and defeating their rival.

The fact that basically every Spartan sport has a different rival shows the lack of student support and the lack of dedication to having a rivalry. In order to have a great rivalry, there must be a mutual hatred between the competing teams. But to have a rivalry that spans the entire roster of varsity sports takes dedication from fans. Players and coaches know who their big rivals are, but fans must keep in touch with the rivalries in order to create that special matchup that everyone can be a part of.

The beauty of sports is having that one team that you look forward to facing no matter how good you are or how good they are. A win against a rival can redeem a lost season or put an exclamation mark on a memorable year. In order for our sports teams and fans to witness and experience a rivalry across all the sports, our fans must become dedicated to pinpointing a team and going after them. Snider and Carroll are good candidates because almost every team plays them at some point throughout the season. Carroll is even in our conference. If the passion of the players can be matched by the fans against certain opponents, rivalries could be born and memorable matchups could be remembered forever.

SECTIONAL COUNTDOWN

GIRLS SWIMMING: 1 day
Thursday, Feb. 5

WRESTLING: 3 days
Saturday, Feb. 7 (Regionals)

GIRLS BASKETBALL: 6 days
Tuesday, Feb. 10

BOYS SWIMMING: 15 days
Thursday, Feb. 19

BOYS BASKETBALL: 27 days
Tuesday, March 3

GYMNASTICS: 31 days
Saturday, March 7

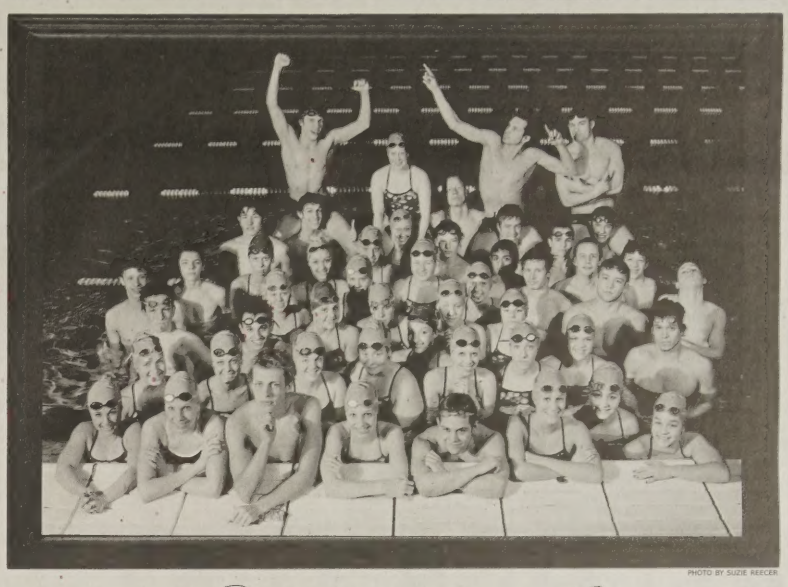


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

WE ARE *family*

Demanding schedule effects unity between girls, boys swim teams

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

No team within the school's walls has quite the same dynamic as the varsity swim team seems to have. Not only does the team spend hours training everyday, but they are a co-ed group, a characteristic no other team can claim. To a football player or cheerleader, having a co-ed team may seem strange, but for the swim team, anything else would be out of the ordinary.

Training is different for the swim team compared to other teams, but they view their training as normal. After one half of the team comes out of the girls' locker room, the other half emerges out of the boys'. One might assume that they would then be divided into separate lanes, but they are not. Instead, they are intermixed.

> "It is true what people say; the swimmers are like a family. Not only do we spend crazy hours training together, but we also hang out every weekend and have formed lasting friendships."
>
> **KRISTEN KINZER (12)**
> Swimmer

The integration helps to push both the boys and girls to train harder. By swimming next to each other, the girls make sure they keep up with the boys.

"It helps to race the boys in practice because it makes us stronger and faster," Kristen Kinzer (12) said.

The challenge from the female gender forces the boys to step up their game and make sure that they are not beaten by a girl, a feat some believe would be a shot to one's pride.

"When I have a girl in the lane next to me, I don't want them to come anywhere close to beating me. I think it really helps with training in that sense," Peter Rondot (12) said.

When a girl does beat a boy, there is always a little fun interaction, often a verbal joke directed towards the male swimmer.

"The girls don't let the guys forget about it if they beat them," Kinzer said.

The co-ed aspect of the swim team aids them in other areas of the sport, aside from training, as well. Having a co-ed group creates a complete circle of support. Even if it is a "girls only" or "boys only" meet, both parts of the team are present to back each other up.

"It is nice to always have a support group at all of your meets to help provide motivation. It really helps the team get ready to race," Rondot said.

The girls have the same feelings towards the boys' encouragement.

"The boys are always encouraging us to do our best and push ourselves," Dylan Bramel (10) said.

Because the team probably trains more than any other varsity sport, the team is an extremely close, tight-knit group. The teams are so close that they even go to breakfast together on occasion.

"Girls provide a balance to the guys because we are usually aggressive and only focused on how we did [individually] in an event, while the girls aren't only focused on themselves. They support the other teammates," Logan Johnson (10) said.

The swimmers do not see themselves as members of the girls' swim team and the boys' swim team, but as part of one large team.

"It is true what people say; the swimmers are like a family. Not only do we spend crazy hours training together, but we also hang out every weekend and have formed lasting friendships," Kinzer said. "All in all, co-ed swimming is beneficial to our training and positively adds to the team dynamic."

SWIM 'FAMILY' TIES AND TRADITIONS

There are currently seven sets of siblings on the swim and dive team. 16 of the current swimmers have had an older sibling who swam on the team in past seasons. Several times throughout the season, the girls exchange fun, inexpensive gifts to their designated "Secret Sister." On the Saturday of sectionals, the boys always paint for the girls and the girls always decorate shirts to wear when cheering on the boys. This past weekend, both the girls and boys team had hair dyeing parties. Following tradition, the girls dyed the tips of their hair pink and the boys bleached their hair. The boys shave their hair after sectional prelims.

Gymnasts' efforts often unnoticed

BY CHRIS RAY AND ALEX FUTTER
SPORTS EDITOR AND WRITER

The Freshman Academy gymnasium is home to a team that is rarely heard about throughout the hallways. They practice their routine daily, and when it comes to the day of meets, they perform in front of less than 75 fans. Yet, the youthful varsity gymnastics team continues to perform with optimism and grace.

With only one senior and a handful of talented freshmen, the gymnastics team has had its share of success throughout the season. Posting a record of 3-3 up to this point in the season, the team has shown signs of improvement, and certainly a lot of potential for the future. Freshmen Madie Zirzow and Kara Bautz have been essential to the team's success with their strong abilities on the balance beam, uneven bars and in their floor routines. Some of the older team members are taking notice.

> "I think our season this year has definitely been better than the past few years. We have some good freshmen who have helped us out a lot."
>
> **CHLOE SMITH (11)**
> Gymnast

"I think our season this year has definitely been better than the past few years. We have some good freshmen who have helped us out a lot," Chloe Smith (11), three-year varsity gymnast, said.

The team's youth has also been essential to their success in invitationals this year. The gymnasts have competed in four invitationals, finishing twelfth out of thirteen teams at the Carter Classic on Jan. 24, and fifth out of six teams at the Chesterton Invitational on Jan. 31.

Invitational competition is the closest thing to Sectional competition that the team encounters throughout the season. Although success has been difficult to find during the invitationals, the girls feel that success in them and in Sectional competition is not too far over the horizon.

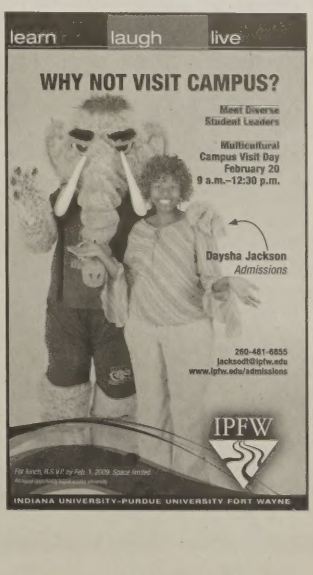
"With our Sectional, it is really hard to get to the Regional competition. It would be tough for us to win [Sectionals], but we have awesome freshmen that can win Sectionals in the coming years," Kelsey Amstutz (12), senior captain, said.

However, with Sectionals approaching faster than ever, the team continues to practice and prepare as always. A normal varsity gymnastics practice takes about two hours. This time includes working on certain events and routines to improve their skills and prepare for upcoming meets. Additionally, meets last about two hours.

One concern the team has is the popularity and fan support of their sport. A varsity sport like basketball or swimming, gymnastics doesn't seem to get the fan support that they would like to receive.

"We don't have a huge crowd by any means, but it would be nice to have one every once in a while," Amstutz said.

As the post-season approaches quickly, the gymnastics team has seen doses of success this season, but show tremendous potential for the years ahead. With the mixture of freshmen and upperclassmen leadership, the gymnastics team could be filling those seats sooner originally expected.



BEFORE THEY WERE TEACHERS

Teachers, faculty members share their stories about their previous occupations, interests before chosing to be educators

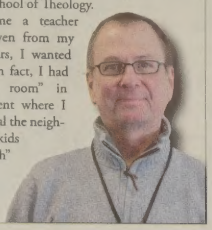
mr. gregory fryzel

French teacher

I was a full-time pastry chef in Cincinnati, Ohio, a full-time chef at St. Leonard College in Centerville, Ohio, and the Registrar for St. Leonard College in Centerville, Ohio.

I was responsible for providing all of the baked goods for the friars who were living at the Brothers' School, I prepared meals for 60+ priests and brothers, and I took care of administrative paperwork for the students at our graduate school of Theology.

I became a teacher because, even from my earliest years, I wanted to teach. In fact, I had a "school room" in my basement where I would corral the neighborhood kids and "teach" them.



mrs. amy hamilton

Guidance counselor

One of my former occupations was a singer in a band on the East Coast. We played every weekend and traveled to do weddings. I also recorded a tape which I wanted to send off to Nashville. But, I never sent it in because my darling child came into the world and my life took another path. But I don't regret a thing.... he was worth it! I than went back to school to pursue a counseling degree.

mrs. diane partee

Math teacher

I was a Civil Engineer. I designed Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipes for a company named Price Brothers in Dayton, OH. I didn't like all the stress of meeting deadlines. I worked a lot of evenings and weekends just to keep up. I had little interaction with people; I worked alone all day.

I became a teacher because I love math and its many applications and I really enjoy working with and teaching high school age students.

mrs. nancy lembke

Library assistant

I was Newscast Producer and Newscast Director. As a producer I decided what stories would be on the local newscast every night and in what order. I would also write the open to the newscast, teases for upcoming segments and a number of the short stories that didn't warrant a reporter. I would also rewrite copy from the AP wire service to make it more pertinent to our local audience.

As a director I was responsible for all technical aspects of the broadcast; camera shots, audio, live reports, graphics and the crew that performed most of these tasks.

I left broadcasting because of the long hours and lack of time off. The news business is very exciting and ever-changing business, but it is also very stressful and full of constant deadlines. There are no 3-day weekends, and certainly no 2 weeks off for the holidays!

I decided to work in education because I feel very strongly about helping kids get a good foundation. I have really enjoyed getting to know some of the students who are regulars in the IMC, and along the way, I have learned how to cite resources for research projects. This position in the library has been a great fit because it combines my love of books and reading with my background and technical knowledge of A/V equipment.

mr. james frazier

Physical education and health teacher

I was a summer camp counselor with the Indiana University Alumni Camps in Elkhart Lake, WI and in Bloomington, IN on Lake Monroe. I was responsible for various activities throughout the day working with different age kids as a counselor my first three summers. The fourth summer I was the head of the children's program. The fifth summer I was the assistant camp director. I stopped because I got my first teaching job out in California, teaching middle school PE/Health.

I actually came back to work my fifth summer at camp after that first school year was done then took another teaching position back here in Indiana.

mrs. lara rich

Mild disabilities teacher

When I briefly worked in the Social Work field, I was responsible for homebased visits for children and teenagers involved with juvenile probation and/or child protective services.

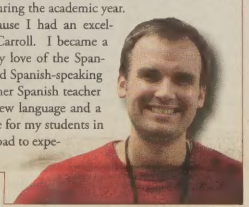
I enjoyed working with teenagers but I wanted to have more of an direct impact with folks on a daily basis, so I set my sights on working in the high school setting as a Mild Disabilities teacher.

mr. justin peeper

Spanish teacher

I was a reporter-photographer at a small daily newspaper in Bluffton, IN. Since it was a small paper, I was able to do a lot, which I enjoyed. I actually still get to do this job, just on a part-time basis. I usually work at the paper in the summers and occasionally throughout the school year. I write a weekly column/editorial but that's about it during the academic year.

I stopped this job full time because I had an excellent student teaching experience at Carroll. I became a teacher because I wanted to share my love of the Spanish language, the Hispanic Culture and Spanish-speaking countries with my students. My former Spanish teacher (Mrs. Bailey) opened my eyes to a new language and a new world, and I hope to do the same for my students in the classroom and by taking them abroad to experience other countries and cultures.



mrs. sarah imbody

English teacher

I was a housekeeper. I was responsible for dusting, mopping, vacuuming, etc. to keep other people's houses clean. I started substitute teaching. It was a good experience for becoming a teacher, and it didn't involve cleaning someone else's toilet. I have always liked reading and writing, and I did not like high school at all, so I thought that maybe I could make someone else's experience better.

mrs. jennifer ward

English teacher

I had a fantastic job at a little French restaurant in Telluride, Colorado called La Marmotte. The food was impeccably prepared so customers were always happy. If I did my job right, I earned big tips and met some really interesting people in the process. The place was a magnet for international travelers because the owners were all French. I worked especially closely with one of them named Bertrand Lepelle-Cointet. We often manned the bar/host station together and he was incredibly charming and funny. I waited on many celebrities including: Mel Gibson, Rob Reiner, Kevin Costner, Ralph Lauren, Christie Brinkley, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. The meals were excellent, the conversation stimulating and sometimes Bertrand would invite an interesting hanger-on to join us for this light meal and leftover bread and wine.

mrs. rosalind miller

Math teacher

I was a Petroleum Engineer for the IRS. So, when someone died who owned oil fields, we would make sure their family was paying enough inheritance tax. We also audited oil companies to ensure they were paying enough Windfall Profits taxes (1983). As a Product/Process Engineer for Baxter Healthcare, I my job dealt with the design and testing of injection molded parts for medical kits - I worked mostly on kits used to collect platelets for the American Red Cross.

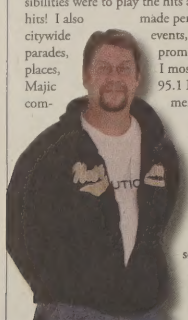
I became I teacher because I have always loved helping people learn math. That was all I ever wanted to do.

mr. jim lamping

Math teacher

I was a radio announcer, so my responsibilities were to play the hits and nothing but the hits! I also made personal appearances at citywide events, including concerts, parades, promotions, etc. Among other places, I mostly worked for WAJI, Majic 95.1 I still do voice overs for commercials today.

I stopped that job because I worked 6 days a week and every holiday. My family was growing and I wanted to spend more time with them. Since my wife was a teacher, I wanted our schedules to be similar. I chose math because math was always fun and easy for me.



mrs. julie slater

Math teacher

I worked as a bank teller and enjoyed training tellers and eventually, I was promoted to the mortgage department. When I left the bank, I became an office manager for an investment advisor. As a teller, I counted money, balanced my drawer and the vault, filed papers, helped with the customer service department. In the mortgage department at the bank, I made sure all mortgage paperwork was typed accurately and legal documents were accurate and complete. At the investment advisor's office, I put client accounts on spreadsheets, filed papers, kept track of stock and bond markets.

I decided to obtain my college degree after my husband passed away because of the opportunities that higher education offers. And I want students to realize the importance of math in our world.

mrs. toiyonna arias

Spanish teacher

I lived in Costa Rica and worked as a tutor and translator (on occasion). I tutored students (young and old) in English as well as occasionally working as a freelance translator. My biggest translation job was to help translate emergency documents in case of an earthquake or any natural disaster.

My degree was in Spanish Secondary Education and after my husband, a native Costa Rican, and I married we decided to move to the USA so he could learn English via immersion.

I love being a mentor and truly enjoy seeing the "light bulb" click when a student gets it. I feel like this was my calling and have always been involved in teaching in some aspect.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, KYLE DULFUS, SUZIE REECER

mrs. leah stupeck

Dance teacher

I was a starving artist living in New York City trying to become a professional dancer/actor/singer. I moved to New York about three weeks after graduating from Ball State. I took weekly voice and dance lessons and went to as many auditions as I could. I was able to audition for "The Lion King," "Cats," various other Broadway shows, cruise lines, movies and commercials. I was in three movies including "Glitter" staring Mariah Carey.

My love for being a professional dancer was soured when I didn't get paid for an unsuccessful dance/theatre job near Myrtle Beach, SC. I always knew that after I was done dancing for myself that I wanted to share my love of dance with others.

mrs. nancy gibson

Earth Space science teacher

Right out of college I taught at Heritage High School with Mr. Schmidt! Then I quit teaching to get my master's in Education. I sold cars and was a head hunter for a private firm. As a head hunter I would call people who worked in areas that we needed to fill and would try to get them to quit their current jobs to work at a new job that we had for them. We filled lots of positions for Weaver Popcorn and Kraft Foods. When I sold cars it was fun working with people who wanted to buy a car.

Selling cars wasn't very hard work, but I quit because the hours were terrible and it was very stressful. I wasn't a very good head hunter so I didn't have that job for very long! I became a teacher because I like working with kids, and I liked having the same schedule as my kids when they were in school.

mr. scott hill

English teacher

I was a management-side employment litigator. I was responsible for defending companies when they were sued for sexual harassment and then counseling those companies on employment law. I stopped working because the daily pressures of life as a litigator were stressful and it did not give me the quality of life that I wanted.

I asked myself what I liked to do when I wasn't working, and I realized that I liked reading and writing. I then decided upon becoming an English teacher.

ISSUE 5
4 FEBRUARY 2009
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
4310 HOMESTEAD ROAD
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46814

MIRADOR

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

72 Days: With less than three months until the opening of Harrison Square, construction crews work to transform downtown Fort Wayne (pg. 8).

TABLE of CONTENTS

PHOTO BY WWW.IMG.TIMEINC.NET

Movie Review: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is nominated for 13 Academy Awards (pg. 14).

3 Art Traces and Parking Spaces

4 After Game Appetizer

5 Universal Letter Writing Week

7 Photo Essay: Harrison Square

9 Downtown Drama: Fort Wayne Cinema Center

10 Middleastern Musings

11 Artist of the Month: Josh Auger

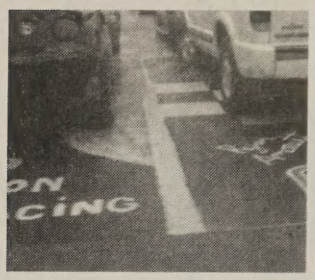
13 Movie Review: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

14 Food Review: Pint and Slice

mir·a·dor (mr-dôr, -dr)
n. a window, balcony, or turret designed to command a broad view

Editor in Chief: Stephanie Zimmerman
Associate Editor: Megan Herbert
Photographers: Suzie Reecer, Margaret Distler
Writers: Noah Gayer, Tess Anglin, Kati Vail, Cam Kaminski

Automotive Art: New Castle Chrysler High School parking spaces spark interest in creative tradition (pg. 3).



PHOTOS BY MEGAN HERBERT

RELEASES & EVENTS

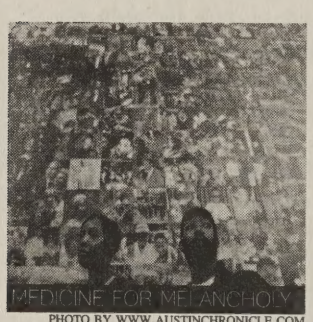


PHOTO BY WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM

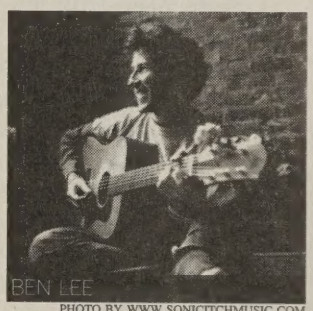


PHOTO BY WWW.SONICITCHMUSIC.COM

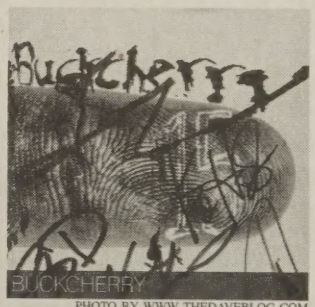


PHOTO BY WWW.THEDAVEBLOG.COM

MOVIE RELEASES

1/13 Confessions of a Shopaholic, Friday the 13th, Gomorrah, The International
1/23 Donkey Punch, Inkheart, Killshot, The Lodger, Outlander, Underworld: Rise of the Lycans
1/28 Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh
1/30 Luck by Chance, Medicine for Melancholy, New in Town, Shadows, Taken, The Uninvited
2/6 Coraline, Fanboys, Free Style, He's Just Not That Into You, The Pink Panther 2, Push

MUSIC RELEASES

1/03 Bad Plus, Fol Chen, Lisa Hannigan, Dent May and His Magnificant Ukelele, Von Bondies, Young Dubliners
1/09 Lily Allen, Mos Def
1/10 Dan Auberach, Warren G, India Arie, Ben Lee, Miranda Lee Richards, Red, Barbara Trentalange, Trouble Andew, The Vox Jaguars
1/27 Franz Ferdinand, Hoobastank, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Dalek, Loney Dear, Duncan Sheik, Colton Jones

PHOTO BY WWW.THEROLLERDOMENORTH.COM

CONCERTS

2/7 Framing Hanley (8:30 PM), Piere's, $10
2/11 The Pretenders (7:30 PM), Murat Theatre, $75
2/16 Avenged Sevenfold and Buckcherry (6:30 PM), Allen County Memorial Coliseum, $65

MEMORIAL COLISEUM

The United Golf Show: Golfing contests, prizes, and top-notch equipment
2/13 12-7 PM
2/14 9 AM-7 PM
2/15 10 AM-4 PM

RECREATION

Rollerdome North: All night skate sessions
2/10 $14
7:30 PM -6 AM

ARTLINK

Life Drawing Sessions
Mon & Wed $2/hour
7-10 PM
GREEN Exhibition
Entries being accepted for upcoming gallery focused on theme of global warming. Must be 18 years of age to participate. All media is eligible. Submissions due: 4/09
www.artlinkfw.com

art traces AND PARKING SPACES

New Castle idea has students wondering about possibilities of painted parking

BY MEGAN HERBERT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Now that seniors have assigned parking spots, juniors are asking to get their parking lot assigned as well, so what is to set the seniors apart now? Paint personalization.

New Castle Chrysler High School, located in New Castle, IN–about an hour and a half south of Fort Wayne–allows seniors to paint their parking spots. "Only the seniors get to paint their spots and the administration checks the paintings to make sure they don't break any school rules," Jonathon Hosea (12) of New Castle Chrysler High School said. As far as the paint, "I just used regular paint, then you seal it so it doesn't disappear."

PHOTOS BY MEGAN HERBERT

New Castle Chrysler: Giving students creative freedom with parking spots leads to some innovative ideas at small Indiana school.

Giving the seniors the freedom to paint whatever they want on their spaces has led to some fairly interesting ideas at New Castle Chrysler. "One person painted it so it was kind of 3D and it looked like you were driving into a hole," Hosea said.

If the same type of program was implemented at Homestead–with, of course, a few restrictions–students seem to be open and excited about the possibilities.

"I would paint my spot," Julianne Stzosak (11) said. "It's a fun way to say to everyone else, 'This is my territory.' I'd make it either one color with a bunch of hearts and smiley faces or I would have a lot of inside jokes on it."

"I might paint the lines my favorite color and write my name in graffiti letters," Missy Bolyard (12) said.

Stzosak also suggested that a student fee for the privilege to paint parking spaces could be put in place.

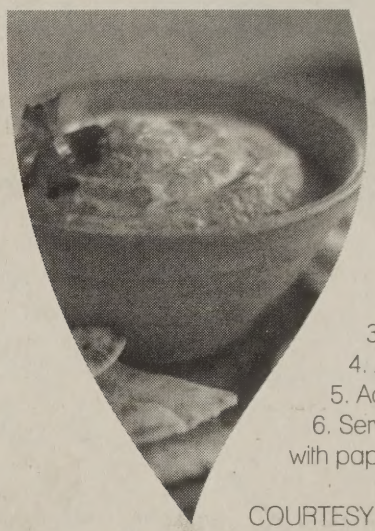
"We should pay ten dollars to paint our spot and have all that money go to Saint Jude's Children's Hospital or the Light the Night Walk at Lutheran Hospital. I think more people would be willing to participate if there was a goal or cause to support rather than just painting your spot on a Saturday morning," Stzosak said. "I wouldn't want to see my money go to fund the senior class or anything. I'm sure parents and other fundraisers throughout the year will take care of that."

Others, though, do not feel quite the same way. Bolyard said she probably would not have paid to get the chance to paint her spot in the senior lot. Bolyard said even ten or fifteen dollars was too much to pay just for a little parking spot with her name on it –even if the money did go to charity.

At the old Woodside, eighth graders could paint a ceiling tile to leave behind and ease the wandering eye in the halls. How about easing the eyes of the sophomores walking to school from their parking lot? It's up to the future seniors. Start something new. Start a tradition.

The **SUPER BOWL** may be over, but that doesn't mean that you still can't sit down with nothing but the BOOB TUBE and a BOWL OF HUMMUS to keep you company. ***Relax*** with this original recipe of a **Greek classic**.

AFTER GAME appetizer



HUMMUS

INGREDIENTS

2 cans of chick peas
3 cloves of garlic
3 heaping tablespoons of sesame seed paste
Juice of 2 lemons
1 tsp of salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Spoon chick peas into blender, save liquid from 1 can
2. Crush garlic in garlic press and add to chick peas
3. Put in Tahini
4. Add juice of lemons and salt
5. Add some of reserve liquid and blend until smooth
6. Serve with toasted pita bread, crackers, or veggies. Sprinkle with paprika if desired.

COURTESY OF ALEX BARNARD (10)

UNIVERSAL HOLIDAY

HAS write IDEA

In honor of Universal Letter Writing Week, students write letters to revel in the cathartic power of a little old-fashioned written communication

DEAR MR. NICHOLSON,

Last period, I left my notebook in you room. It has my AP Statistics and AP Psychology things in it, and I left it on your desk when we were talking about combinations and permutations. It also has my pens and pencils in it, and I really need my pencil, especially for Advanced 3D Art next period. I'm probably going to come back to your room this coming passing period to retrieve it, and I hope nobody stole it–it's a pretty hot item.

Thanks for being superfly,
COLLETTE SPEARS (12)

DEAR AGENT SMITH,

I'm losing touch with reality. I've become completely ingrained in this world of yours, and it makes me glad. The real world has lost its luster, it holds no use for me. This world is what's important to me, and its people are blind–and it's all the fault of you and your crazy mechanical parents. If there was any way to throw a wrench in the works, I would do it, but wrenches are outdated–EMP's are all the rage now. Anyway, you and your newfangled bullet-dodging have to go, I have got eyes to open.

Until next time,
MR. ANDERSON

DEAR MICHAEL PHELPS,

Thank you for always knowing how to look good while on television. You know how to win gold medals like the back of your hand. You make it look so simple, yet it is so difficult. Along with your swimming skills, you make looking good look easy. I know swimming outfits may look weird on some people, but on you, they look pretty darn good. The Olympics does not phase you. Your golden skin, toned arms and perfectly formed abs are just a few of the qualities you possess. I really do not blame you for always having no shirt on in the public eye. Tell me, do you ever check yourself out in the mirror? Just take all this into consideration about whether or not we should meet up somewhere. Well I have to go back to reality, so have a nice life Michael Phelps. Keep on swimming and looking good!

Sincerely,
Missy Bolyard (12)

DEAR MIKE,

Being your sister has given me perspective on life. You have shown me what not to do and what only someone like you could do. You show me up to mom and dad, making me look like a slacker. I really appreciate that. You have always had better grades than me, more girlfriends than I have boyfriends, and more activities that you are involved in. Although I did get accepted to more colleges than you, I also applied to more and the ones you got accepted to are "better" than mine–I got rejected from Indiana University and you got accepted.

We come from totally different worlds when it comes to who we hang out with and what we do on the weekends. I may have more friends than you, but that (to me) honestly does not mean anything–what happens in high school does not have much to do with where we will go in the future. I love you with my whole heart, even though you really annoy me sometimes. I beat on you and I get in trouble and you never fight back, so I look like a meany. I might have some anger problems. I don't know. I may never know.

Well, I just wanted to write to tell you...in the end, I think you have accomplished more than my social status ever could. I'm sorry for being a bad sister all these years when I used to beat you up and all that jazz. Well, hopefully, when we both move far away for college, we will become closer. You know what they always say, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."

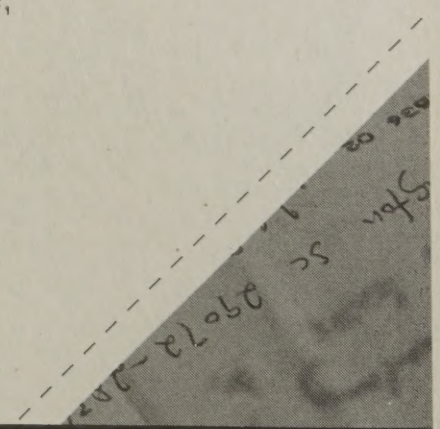
Love you brother!
Allie Hall (12)

DEAR OLD SPICE,

I am writing to remark upon your body wash product that I have purchased. Today on its maiden voyage into my shower, I noticed it was labeled as a "new scent." This intrigued me. When I opened the cap and squirted a dollop onto my hand, I noticed it was a rather brilliant shade of teal. I was frightened by this new development, fearing the use of it would transform my pigment to match its own.

I was then thrilled at the possibility of ceasing my days as a Caucasian and becoming a sea foam creature. This led me to begin developing a superhero persona, the Neon Avenger, complete with web-shooting powers and the ability to fly. To my dismay, all these hopes were dashed when I realized the once shining color transmitted into soapy white. How angered I was, my hopes of costumed heroism dashed by crippling reality. So, I am writing to complain of false advertising. If you choose to make a body wash with such an interesting color, please be sure the user will be given fantastic powers as a result.

Thank you for your time,
Luke Baker (12)



one hotel
one public park
one baseball stadium
one condominium development
one sky walkway
and over 100 million dollars
slowly come together to form...

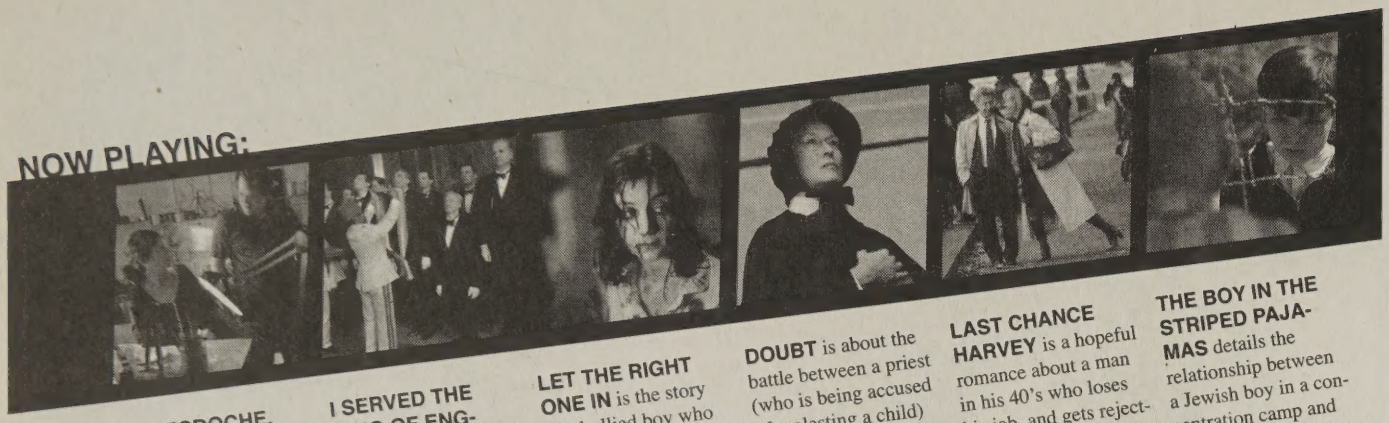
the new heights of

HARRISON SQUARE

A PHOTO ESSAY BY SUZIE REECER

8 3
DAYS TO OPENING DAY

NOW PLAYING:



SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK is the story of a man who has lost everything, and then builds his own false world inside a warehouse in New York. PHOTO BY WWW.SLASHFILM.COM

I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND is the story told by a man just released from prison, flashing back to his early years depicting his somewhat unfortunate, but often humorous life. PHOTO BY WWW.CASTELLO.TISTORY.COM

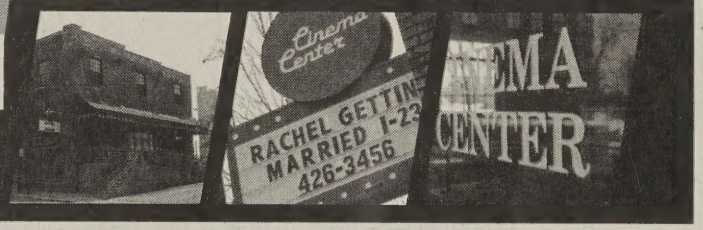
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN is the story of a bullied boy who befriends a 12-year-old vampire. Although her presence leads to a series of violence and deaths, his need for friendship is stronger than his fear. PHOTO BY WWW.CINEMAISDOPE.COM

DOUBT is about the battle between a priest (who is being accused of molesting a child) and the strict catholic school principal using her suspicion alone to accuse him. PHOTO BY WWW.IMG2.TIMEINC.NET

LAST CHANCE HARVEY is a hopeful romance about a man in his 40's who loses his job, and gets rejected from his daughter's wedding. He meets a woman who is in an equal state of devastation, and the two slowly begin to fall in love. PHOTO BY WWW.COLLIDER.COM

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS details the relationship between a Jewish boy in a concentration camp and a German boy during the Holocaust. PHOTO BY WWW.STATIC.GUIM.CO.UK

DOWNTOWN DRAMA



Fort Wayne Cinema Center offers avid movie fans a glimpse of indie filmaking

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

The Cinema Center located on 437 E. Berry Street is a little known place around Fort Wayne. For those who are currently unaware of this small indie movie theatre, the Cinema Center shows a variety of films that are often not shown in commercial theaters.

The main goal of the Center–run by a culturally influenced and laid-back organization–is to bring original films to Fort Wayne. Most of the movie titles are obscure and virtually unknown, and few of the movies showing have nationwide previews.

The Center shows movies from almost every category, including foreign films, low budget indies, and sometimes even larger, but lesser-known movies that are shown at Rave Motion Pictures ("The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" and "Doubt.") At their website, they have a synopsis of each of their films currently showing at the theatre.

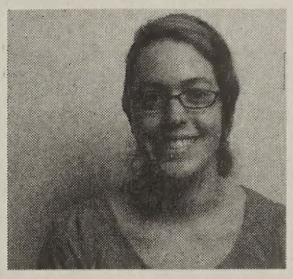
The Cinema Center Inc. has been occupying the Hall Community Arts Center since 1991, but officially started in 1976 after the Spectator, another film theatre, lost its lease. They finally settled in after help from several foundations. In 2004, the Cinema Center opened up a second location on the Indiana Tech campus, which recently added a second screen.

The Cinema Center looks nothing like a typical movie theater from the outside, lacking the overdone florescent lights and large movie posters. The exterior of the downtown Cinema Center building may give off a less-than-stellar first impression, but on the inside, the theatre exudes a very cozy, homey appeal. The theatre seats up to 141 people and offers a free art gallery along with several activities. One of these includes "movie talk" –a discussion among the audience after the movie is shown.

The Cinema Center is a non-profit organization, so along with regular movie prices, they offer memberships ranging from individual to family patron. The benefits include reduced prices, a "now showing" email, and completely free movies.

For further information, check out the The Cinema Center's website at www.cinemacenter.org, which has details about its up-and-coming movies, mission statement, special events, and the Center's surprisingly long history.

If the commercial market in movies fails to provide acceptable entertainment for the evening, don't forget about the Cinema Center for some fresh, original pieces that are sure to inspire.



"Even though the region is, as always, in political tumult, my program has a very conservative policy regarding where students are allowed to travel. I am one of the few high school journalists to report from abroad."

Kibbutz Tzuba or Bust

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
WRITER

When I first told people that I was going to spend a semester in Israel, they bombarded me with questions. "Do they have electricity there?" they asked. "Do people get around on camels?" Unfortunately, these questions reflect unawareness of a very modern country with cars, electricity, and the Internet.

Questions lately have focused more on the escalating hostility in the area that continues to make headlines. However, living outside of Jerusalem, I'll be far away from the commotion in the Gaza Strip.

I'm spending this semester in Israel as one of 119 students from North America to take part in the Eisendrath International Exchange program. It is an American accredited high school, so, for example, my Spanish III credit from there will transfer to Homestead. My core classes are taught in English, but I also have to take an intensive Hebrew class in the morning, as well as a daily class about Israeli culture, which often involves field trips throughout the country.

It took a long time to get my trip approved. I was volleyed between various guidance counselors, all of whom told me different requirements for studying abroad. After getting the school, state, and–after much persuading–my parents to allow me to go, I began the long application process. There were at least a dozen forms, recommendations, and other required pieces of information.

During my trip to the pediatrician, I had to have my doctor attest that I was mentally stable. I had to get shots, which involved a very humorous two-hour wait at the health department in the Fort Wayne City-County building, complete with screaming babies and "Lucky the Lead-Free Lemur" posters. I began filling out my application in the middle of April and officially completed it in the beginning of September.

As my friends watch media coverage on the complex issues in the Gaza Strip, a small area of land adjacent to Israel, many worry about my safety. Even though the region is, as always, in political tumult, my program has a very conservative policy regarding where students are allowed to travel. I am one of the few high school journalists to report from abroad. The purpose of this column is to enlighten readers about what's going on in the area, from a perspective they may not get from an American news organization.

My motivations for taking this trip are still crystallizing. I've always wanted to study abroad, and this program allows me to get the culture and the language of Israel without being thrown head on into a non-English speaking culture. This opportunity allows me to experience the country more as a local rather than a tourist who's trying to cram all of the important sites into a weeklong holiday.

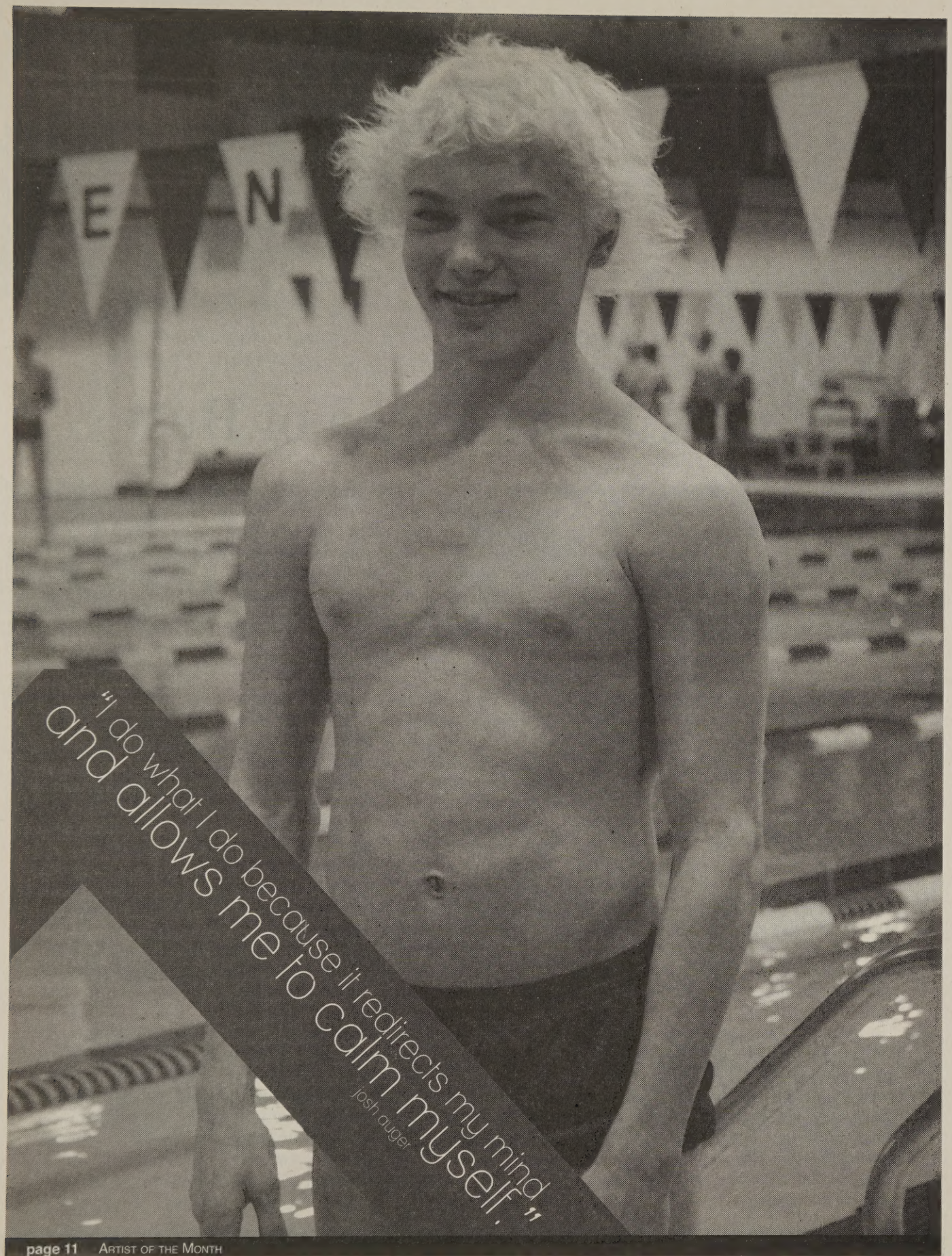
I'm excited about this new adventure. Maybe leaving America will teach me to appreciate what we have here more while also expanding my world view.

TRAVEL**INFO**

Departs: 25 Jan 2009
Returns: 1 Jun 2009
Location: Kibbutz Tzuba (just outside of Jerusalem)

CONTACT**INFO**

Molly Zweig will regularly be writing a column from Israel. Any reader questions or comments can be sent to:
mczweig@gmail.com


"I do what I do because it redirects my mind
and allows me to calm myself."
Josh Auger

JOSH AUGER

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Every month, the Mirador highlights a different Homestead artist. This issue, Josh Auger (10) explains why swimming and sophomore block don't stop him from utilizing his drawing abilities.

BY TESS ANGLIN
WRITER

Mirador: How would you define yourself as an artist?
Auger: A famous Australian Artist, William Dobell, said it best, "A sincere artist is not one who makes a faithful attempt to put on to canvas what is in front of him, but one who tries to create something which is, in itself, a living thing." This is the artist I strive to become.

BACKGROUND INFO

FAVORITE SONG: "Renegade" by Styx
HOBBIES DURING FREE TIME: "What free time?"
COLLEGE MAJOR: Industrial Design
FUTURE PROJECT: "Designing my own house."

M: When did you first discover your talent?
A: From my very first years, when I began handling a pencil, my mother noticed I liked to doodle and draw, even if those drawings at that point in my life were just swirls and scrawls. However, I developed an interest in doing them and my interest became a talent through practice.
M: What is your favorite form of art?
A: Even though my art classes in school focus more on realistic subject matter, my real joy comes in using my imagination and I find my favorite subject of art is actually in cartooning and quick sketches.
M: What advice would you give to young aspiring artists?
A: There are some people who just have "natural talent." For me, becoming an artist and developing talent was not something that happened overnight. It takes practice and if you love what you're doing, practice isn't a problem.
M: Would you ever pursue this as a career?
A: I have thought about becoming an artist, but I realized that being an artist does not guarantee a steady income. I will, however, continue my hobby as just that–a hobby.
M: What are your plans after high school?
A: After high school I plan on attending college. I'm not sure which college, but I hope to pursue industrial design to combine my artistic strengths and engineering interests.
M: How do you balance school, swimming, and life as well as being an artist?
A: Because I am trying to balance school, swimming, and being an artist, it leaves little room for having a life, unfortunately. Swimming, especially, is very demanding.
M: Where do you do most of your art?
A: I do most of my art during my vacations when I don't have to worry about school.
M: What inspires you?
A: I leave most of my artwork to my imagination; I don't like doing many still-lifes, portraits, and realistic rendering. I prefer to leave my drawing ideas limitless, just like the imagination.
M: What do you think is the greatest thing about being an artist?
A: It's more of a personal gratification for me; I am pleased to see my ideas become visible on paper so that I can share them with others.
M: Is there anything you dream of doing in your future?
A: I hope that in the future I will be able to use my artistic skills to design my own house.

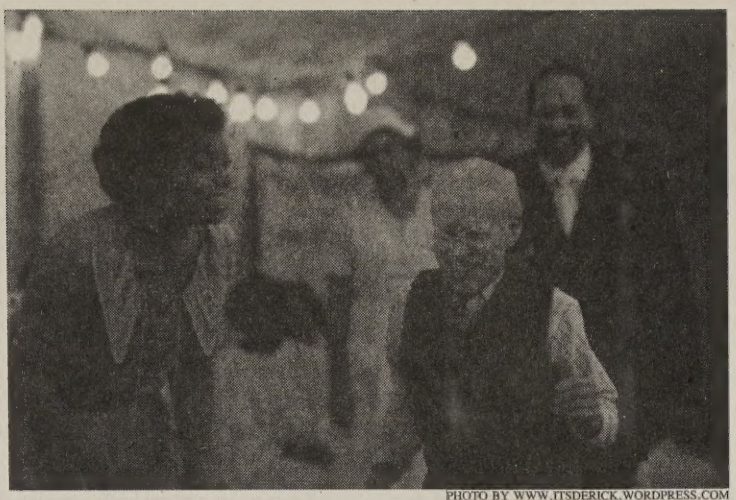


PHOTO BY WWW.ITSDERICK.WORDPRESS.COM

Senioritis: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"–which details a man's life who ages backwards–was adapted from a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

the curious case of BENJAMIN BUTTON

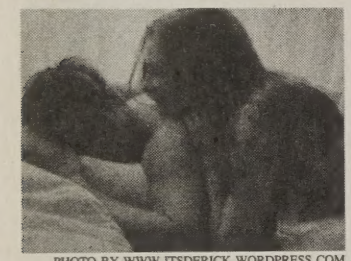


PHOTO BY WWW.ITSDERICK.WORDPRESS.COM

Oscar Powerhouse: Brad Pitt (left) and Cate Blanchett (right) star in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," which is nominated for thirteen Academy Awards including best picture, best director, and best actor.

'Fight Club' director creates masterpiece with 'Button'

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

NOAH'S RATING»

How is life measured? The answer lies within the "curious" story of a man who ages backwards. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" offers up insight on the value of human life and interaction alongside the importance of time and how it is used. Its display of everyday joys, heartaches, and losses provides for one thought-provoking film. Moviegoers will be intrigued by every minute of the nearly three hour experience.

Hurricane Katrina is just touching down in New Orleans when an elderly woman, Daisy, is on her death bed in a hospital. At her side is her daughter, Caroline, of which Daisy asks to read a mysterious diary she possesses. The first page begins, "I was born under unusual circumstances," thus starting a compelling recollection of memories and moments.

Brad Pitt stars as Benjamin Button, an individual born as an elderly man that grows physically younger as his actual age increases. His mother died giving birth to him, so his biological father abandons him on the doorstep of an old time nursing home. He is instantly taken in and cared for by Queenie, a caregiver at the home. A doctor believes that Benjamin will not live long with all of his physical problems that resemble those of an 80-year-old man. The odds are beaten, and Benjamin's long and touching life story is told from the text of his diary.

Daisy's grandmother is a resident at the nursing home when Daisy and Benjamin first meet. The two become close but eventually go on their separate paths. Daisy gets older as Benjamin gets younger and they eventually reconnect in their forties, when they match up in age.

Throughout the movie, Benjamin travels and runs into people with different perspectives on life and its purpose. These people shape who Benjamin ultimately becomes–he learns that he needs to accept life and let go, whether that means losing a friend in death or in life.

The experiences he gains from loss and love make him a caring, compassionate and trustworthy individual–always able to sit down, have a drink, and make a new friend. The people in Benjamin Button's life make him reflect on what he has and wants to accomplish as well as persistently reminding him that time is a precious thing that cannot be stopped.

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is a spectacular tale that teaches what outlives time and is forever. Its presentation is right on as it continually picks at viewers' minds and makes them ponder the importance of time and human interaction. Director David Fincher does a wonderful job pulling in the audience and opening their eyes as truth and purpose are laid out on the table–because life is not measured in minutes, but in moments.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

Pizza Party: Pint and Slice consists of two floors: the lower floor for regular customers and the upper floor–complete with couches, TV's and board games–for parties and special events.

PINT & SLICE

Eatery serves up hot eats, even without the alcoholic treats

BY TESS ANGLIN
WRITER

New to Fort Wayne, Pint and Slice is a great neighborhood pizza place with an upbeat atmosphere.

Pint and Slice separates itself from the average pizza place by providing various types of freshly-made pizza along with a generous selection of other food items. They offer over twenty different kinds of pizza and even give customers the ability to create their own. Besides pizza, Pint and Slice also has salads, grinders (a fancy name for submarine sandwiches), calzones, and wings.

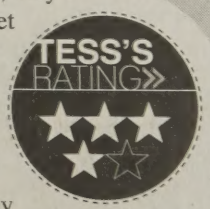
The restaurant is set up with an arrangement of several tables, including two tables in the front that are literally "window seats." The décor of warm colors and classy checkered tablecloths allows the customers to feel at ease while dining.

The upstairs of Pint and Slice is a room primarily for small parties and groups that make reservations. The second floor provides tables, couches, and televisions, along with some board games and other forms of entertainment. The additional space is an innovative way of offering a nice space for parties, as well as adding a unique flair to the room.

Pint and Slice's pizzas are an exceptional specialty. Their hand tossed crust is a perfect mix of soft and crunchy, creating a happy medium for anyone who struggles deciding between thin or hand-tossed crust. On top of the marvelous crust is the smooth and tangy tomato sauce that is distinctive and delicious, forcing the customer to never settle for just one slice. The cheese, as well as the other toppings available, adds flavor and sensation to every bite.

As far as pricing goes, a single slice of cheese pizza is $2.25, and gradually increases in price depending on the number of toppings. Adding a drink to the meal only costs $1.05, and an additional salad, $2.40. So, a complete combo comes in around $5.70.

After a customer orders their pizza, they pay up front at the counter and then get their food and pick their seat, so the overall system is very casual.



Pint and Slice usually has a small handful of customers dispersed about the restaurant at any given time. Depending on the time of day, and the day of the week, the crowds may alter slightly, but there will most likely be an empty table or two to snag. Its hours are Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 8:16 p.m.

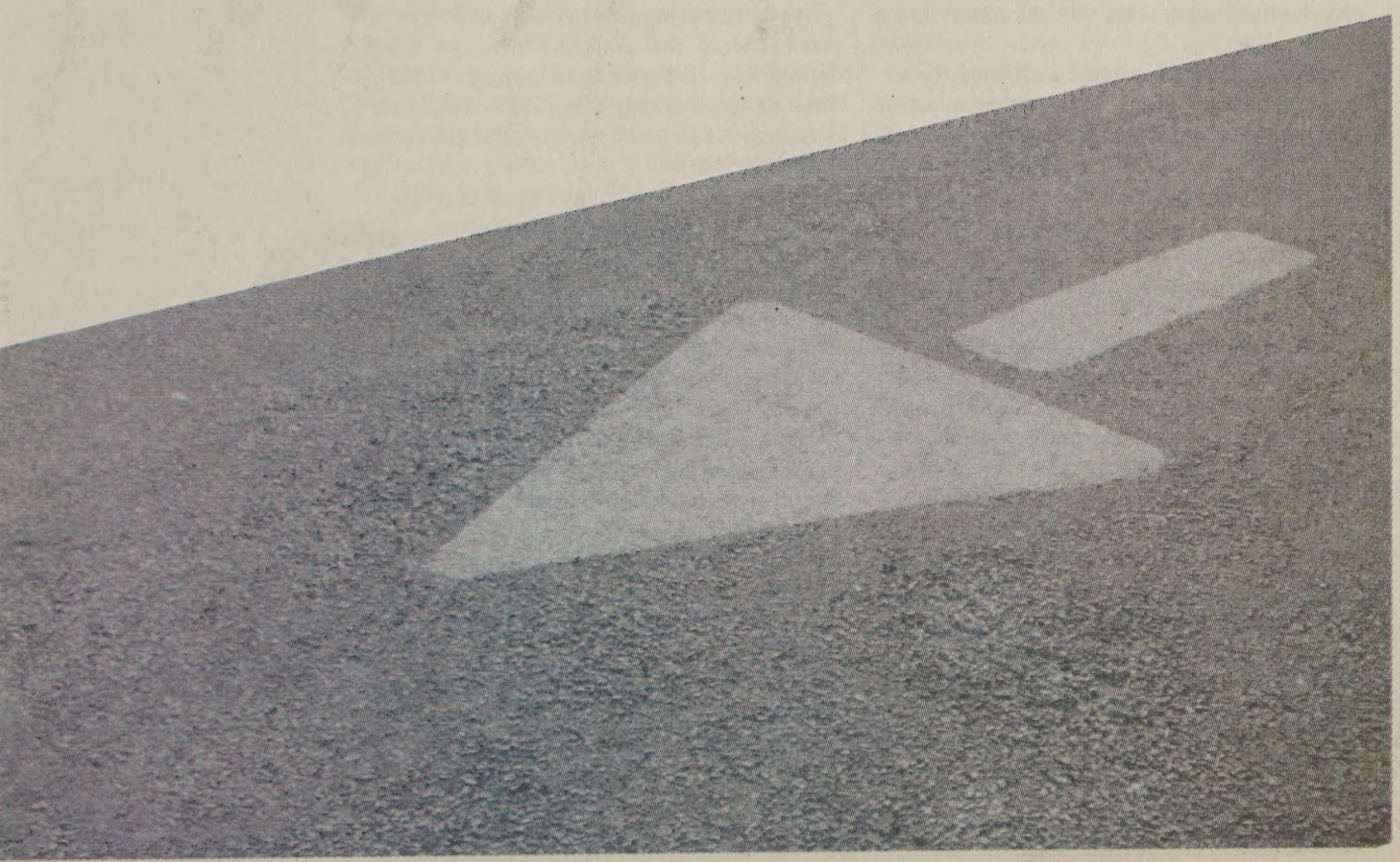
On the whole, Pint and Slice is a great restaurant to go eat at with friends or grab a nice slice of pizza with a family member. The relaxed atmosphere mixed with the distinctive menu allows Pint and Slice to be a memorable dining experience. With fair prices and quality pizza, Pint and Slice proves to an excellent neighborhood pizza place for all to enjoy.

CONTACT**INFO**

816 Calhoun Street
Mon-Sat: 11 AM-8:16 PM
(260) 423-6600

SPECIALTY**PIES**

Bacon Dbl Chzburger: Bacon, Ground Beef, Cheddar Jack, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion
The Bob: Broccoli, Feta, Onion, Black Olives, Green Peppers
Chicken Alfredo: Alfredo Sauce, Chicken, Asparagus, and Mushrooms
(ALL SPECIALTY PIES ARE $15.50)



the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 10 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

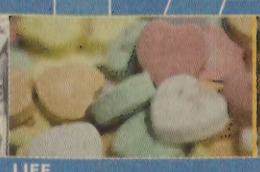


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

A MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Diveeta Thompson pushes ban of texting while driving

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

The somber sea of students slowly trickled into Glenbrook Mall on Feb. 10. Chattering quietly as they found their seats, students watched as Diveeta Thompson, the mother of deceased student Rodney Thompson, prepared her portion of Parkview Hospital's public service announcement (PSA) about texting and driving— the cause of her son's untimely death earlier this year. Parkview recently launched a campaign about the dangers of texting and driving, and this was the first of their news conferences promoting a proposed ban on the activity. Emotions ran high during the meeting, as many were reminded of the grief of losing a close friend.

"[The PSA] made me think back to when Rodney died, and it made me really sad," Kara Deister (12)

PSA, continued on 2a

Connor Price (11), Justin Hoffman (12) and Derek Kinzer (12) listen to the mother of the late Rodney Thompson as she speaks out against students sending text messages while driving.

BRIEFS

DECA COMPETITION
From Mar. 1-3, 93 DECA students will be competing at the state competition in Indianapolis. They will be staying overnight at the Marriott Hotel during the days of the competition. There will be one state officer competing in District Three and six presidents along with 20 students will compete in the individual events. In addition, 45 students will be performing in the tournament and 20 students will compete in the writing events.

DECA *go figure*

- 1 state officer competing in District Three
- 6 presidents competing individually
- 20 students competing individually
- 45 students competing in tournament
- 20 students competing in writing

CANSTRUCTION COLLECTION
From Monday, Feb. 9 to Friday, Feb. 20, Canstruction will be collecting money and cans for the Community Harvest Food Bank. Money will be collected during 5th period classes, and all kinds of cans will be accepted. Can donations can be dropped off in Don Lines' room.

VARIETY SHOW PERFORMERS
Held by drama director Victoria Malooley, the Variety Show will be on Thursday, Mar. 12 in the auditorium. Four students will be hosting the performance, and Malooley hopes to have 15-20 acts. A list of the students who tried out and will perform at the show will be posted on Friday, Feb. 20th.

IPFW CAREER DAY
IPFW is holding an annual career day on Feb. 28. Students will be able to explore future careers in the fields of engineering, technology and computer sciences. For the answers to any questions, please contact Carol Isaacs. Call the Office of Admissions at 260-481-5812, or send an email to lsaacs@ipfw.edu.

IN THIS ISSUE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Teachers Preparing for Maternity Leave
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Evaluating the Stimulus Package, Ed Board, Left and Write
PAGE 4A, Life: Cupid Angst, Former Spartans and Current Teachers, Winter Guard
PAGE 5A, Life: Puncture Perceptions, Snug Life, Learning the Lingo
PAGE 6A, Sports: Coaching Dedication, Boys' Basketball, Intramural Hoops
PAGE 7A, Sports: Signature Students, Girls' Basketball, Full Court Press
PAGE 8A, Feature: **Getting 'fresh' in the Summit City**

Cabaret Night marks season start

Elite, Class Royale hope to lend aid to D.C. trip with event proceeds

BY PRIYA PAREKH
WRITER

With an estimated 600 sponsors, parents, friends and family members supporting performing students, show choir's annual Cabaret Night was held on Feb. 7. During the event, both the Elite and Class Royale groups presented their competition shows. Essentially, Cabaret Night was a precursor to a string of show choir competitions, allowing the choirs to practice their shows before actually performing in front of judges. Along with providing stage experience, Cabaret Night was also a very important fundraiser for the choirs.

"We were looking forward to raising a lot of money because we are going to take a group trip to Washington D.C. this year for the national competition," Curtis Shaw, choir director, said. "And Cabaret Night prepared us because the next night we had our first performance."

Along with the many benefits gained from hosting Cabaret Night, there was a tremendous amount of planning and preparation needed to accommodate the numerous activities that occurred throughout the night, including additional entertainment by Anonymous Blue, Al Stiles and The Don Juan's. Live and silent auctions, raffle and door prizes and a dessert

Cabaret Night, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

Hali Bickford (12), Megan Todd (12), Rachel Ford (12) and Rachel Mantica (11) perform at the show choir-hosted Cabaret Night. An estimated 600 sponsors supported members this year.

Economics activity opens eyes to crisis

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

As parents lose jobs and businesses go under, the economy has become a pressing issue in the United States. Although the stock market plays a large role in the economy, most students do not fully understand why this is. To give students a better understanding of the stock market and its effects, some economics classes participate in the Stock Market Game.

In this project, students are given an allowance of theoretical money with which they "purchase" stocks.

"The simulation is very close to the real stock market. The biggest difference is that it's not their own money on the line," April Moss, an economics teacher, said.

Stocks Game, continued on 2a

"The simulation is very close to the real stock market. The biggest difference is that it's not their own money on the line."

APRIL MOSS
Economics Teacher

cordial INVITE

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Clarissa Root (11), Amanda Bird (12) and Courtney Burton (11) perform "Slow Me Down" in the lyrical division.

PAST PLACEMENTS

Portage, Jan. 31
1st Place: JV Jazz, Elite Jazz, Elite Hip Hop, Elite Pom, JV Pom

Northrop, Jan. 24
1st Place: JV Pom, Elite Pom, JV Jazz, Elite Jazz
2nd Place: Elite Lyrical

Munster, Jan. 17
1st Place: Elite Lyrical and Elite Jazz
2nd Place: JV Pom and JV Jazz

Daylong Homestead Dance Invitational driven by parent, student volunteers

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

While a gym full of screaming fans is typically associated with a basketball game, on Feb. 7, the main gym was filled with the roar of the people attending the tenth annual Homestead Dance Invitational.

Last Saturday, the Southwest Allen County Schools Dance program hosted schools from all over the state of Indiana for the annual invitational, in which Homestead's varsity team, composed of 19 members, competed in the lyrical, pom and jazz divisions. The junior varsity team, composed of 20 members, competed in the pom and jazz divisions, and the hip-hop team, composed of dancers from both teams, competed in the elite hip-hop division.

During the weeks leading up to the invitational, team members sold yellow Homestead Dance shirts to the student body for $10.00. Along with encouraging team spirit, these shirts gave free admission to everyone who wore them to the competition.

With solo and ensemble performances beginning at 9:00 a.m., team dances beginning at 1:00 p.m., and awards not beginning until 5:00 p.m., the competition was one of the largest and longest in the state.

"It's a big deal performing in front of all of your friends because they don't always understand dance. We worked really hard and it paid off."

RACHEL RIFKIN (11)
Varsity Dancer

Putting on a production of that magnitude took careful preparation to make sure everything went smoothly on the day of the invitational. Vice Principal Jennifer Bay, head of the dance program, oversaw the planning of the event, and parents of each of the dancers were asked to volunteer for at least one shift during the day. Selling concessions, running warm-ups, working the front door and working at vendors' booths were among the jobs that needed to be done.

Even Homestead Key Club members volunteered to help out during the competition as score runners, rope holders and gift runners.

As the day approached and all of the technical aspects of the competition were taken care of, the dance teams focused on perfecting their routines to show them off not only to their fellow dancers, but also to their family and friends who don't often get to travel to competitions that are located far away.

Although they were exempt from placing

Dance Team, continued on 2a

Teachers prepare for maternity leaves

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

A variety distractions and difficulties plague students throughout the school year, ranging from daydreams of the activities that will transpire outside the classroom to disruptions from talkative students who chatter loudly during class. Another major factor that can affect student learning is teacher absences, namely for maternity leave.

According to the teachers' contracts, maternity leave is when a teacher is allowed to skip school for a predetermined amount of time when they are pregnant. This allows them to not become flustered with balancing their pregnancy and the stresses of school. Preparing for such a long absence takes much time.

"The first thing that a teacher needs to do is speak with Mrs. Phyllis Davis [of human resources]," Amanda Patterson, English teacher, said. "She helps pregnant teachers figure out how much time they are able to take off work and if/how it would affect her pay."

While this program is very beneficial to teachers, it can add another challenge for students to face during the year. With the original teacher gone, a new teacher takes her place, attempting to continue the curriculum where it was left off. Usually these temporary replacements are either substitutes or teachers of a different course from within the school.

"Human Resources posts the job opening," Patterson said. "The substitute teacher must have a degree in the position he/she is taking over. Applicants send in their resumes and applications, and then they may be interviewed. The principal, central office and department chair are the ones who decide who will fill the position."

However, when another teacher tries to replace the original teacher, several problems can result. For example, the two educators could have conflicting teaching and discipline styles. If a teacher leaves for maternity leave during the middle of the semester, students have already grown accustomed to her teaching style. For instance, if her style is more laid back, students may be more relaxed in the class. Nevertheless, when a new teacher is assigned to take her place, the students will most likely have to adjust to a different style of teaching. Therefore, the effect on academic matters can vary depending on the personality of the substitute teacher.

"I really think the amount of disruption in academics depends on both the student and the quality of the substitute teacher," Patterson said. "Sometimes students really connect with the original teacher, but don't have that same connection with the substitute. But if the substitute is a qualified teacher who cares about the students and their learning, then the quality of learning should not be affected."

Although it is necessary to teachers' wellbeing, students have varied opinions on maternity leave. Those who are slightly more adverse to change have a difficulty adjusting mid-semester. However, overall, most students agree that it is more beneficial to teachers than it is harmful to students.

"Maternity leave can't really be avoided, because it's important for a pregnant woman to be able to take care of herself and her developing child during the pregnancy," Andrew Yde (10) said. "Although it may disrupt the flow of the classroom and its students, maternity leave has to be an option for pregnant women when their job would otherwise jeopardize the smoothness of the pregnancy."

In some cases, the new teacher can easily assume the role that the original teacher had. For example, Patterson said that the schedule for her class was not affected by her maternity leave.

Thus, the true question lies not in whether maternity leave affects students, but, rather, how well they can adapt to the indispensable procedure. Many students do not have trouble adapting to a change in routine.

I don't think I would have trouble adapting to having my teacher go on maternity leave," Michael Wendlandt (10) said. "Having a new teacher wouldn't bother me at all."

Although maternity leave does affect students, the obstacles that coincide with teacher absences can be easily overcome when substitutes are able to assimilate their styles and students are willing to work.

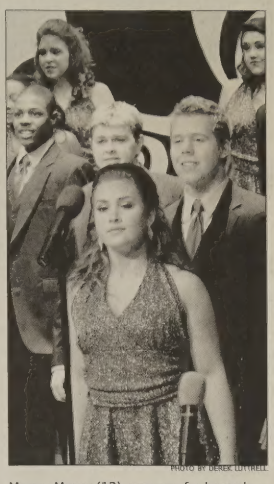


PHOTO BY DEREK LUTHRELL

Megan Meyer (12) prepares for her solo performance at Cabaret Night. Both show choirs hope that the annual fundraiser generates enough money for a trip to a national contest this upcoming spring.

STOCKS GAME
CONTINUED FROM 1A

Near the end of the semester, each group summarizes the reasoning behind each of their stock purchases and writes an overall summary of the outcome of their investments. What makes this project so worthwhile is that the Stock Market Game simulates the actual stock market in nearly every aspect.

"I do believe the stock market game was worth while because it forced us to follow the market," Kylene Coate (11) said.

Students who encountered problems during the Stock Market Game were taught to be more careful when investing in real-life stocks.

"Our group did not put that much thought into the stocks we purchased, which is probably why we did not do very well. I guess it is important to know some information about the stocks you are buying beforehand," Aaron Clark (12) said.

Over the years, the stock market project has been a big part of economics classes at Homestead.

"[Homestead has been participating in the stock market project for] around 20-plus years," Moss said. "It has changed so much over the years. When I first started this activity we had no Internet, so we had to fill out forms and mail the forms to a company in New York and then wait a week for the results to be mailed back."

Moss also explained that some Homestead teams have done well in the past at the state competition.

"One year I had a team win state. They had a profit of $87,000 in just 10 weeks, which was just astounding," Moss said.

> [The game] is a fun activity, but it is also a lesson that students will take with them to use throughout their lives."
>
> **APRIL MOSS**
> Economics Teacher

The knowledge of the stock market that students gain through this project is important because the stock market will eventually greatly affect their lives.

"Investing affects the daily lives of every person, family, company and country in the world," Moss said. "If there were no investors there would be no businesses and without businesses there would be no jobs and without those tax paying jobs, government would cease to function. In this simulation students learn how to help themselves gain financial security."

A big misconception about the stock market is that, during these times of turmoil, it is unsafe to invest, which is not always the case.

"[Over the course of the country's recent economic problems,] some companies have done well and some have performed horribly," Moss said. "But that is also a great life lesson. Students learn they need to thoroughly investigate the companies in which they invest rather than just randomly buy stock they heard about on television or one that was recommended by a stockbroker. My mother's stockbroker recommended she buy stock in Enron. He is no longer her broker."

The Stock Market Game is a staple of the economics curriculum because of its relevance to economic ideas and the real-life experience it gives student in investing.

"I really do enjoy the Stock Market Game. It is a fun activity, but it is also a lesson that students will take with them to use throughout their lives," Moss said.

WE KNOW THE ISSUES. WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS YOUR REACTION.
[thespartana@gmail.com]
Teenage Pregnancy • Texting While Driving • Class Rank • Laptop Usage Policy

PSA
CONTINUED FROM 1A

said. "I think the story is really touching, and I hope that other schools will learn from the situation."

Resurrecting the pain of loss as well as the joy of memories, the PSA prompted many students to reflect upon their time with Rodney and how they met him.

"I knew Rodney since 7th grade, which would be for about five years," Connor Price (11) said. "I knew him through school and through basketball. I hang out with mainly seniors, so he was close to all of us."

Obviously, texting while driving is no longer an issue taken lightly by Homestead students, and it has become a problem that deserves more attention statewide. According to a study by the American Automobile Association, 46% of teenagers text while driving. It has also been shown through various studies that nearly 80% of crashes are caused by some form of driver distraction, and one of the biggest forms of driver distraction is texting while driving. In addition, close to 50% of the teens surveyed in a study openly admitted that they text while driving. Although it is unknown exactly how many crashes are caused by texting, the endless stream of stories printed in newspapers concerning teen deaths in related instances make it an issue of dire concern.

Addressing this concern, Tuesday's public service announcement was the first in Parkview's new campaign, Don't Text and Drive. The PSA started with an introduction by one of the workers at Parkview Hospital, followed by comments from Dr. E. Jon Brandenberger, Allen County's Coroner. Next to speak was Diveeta Thompson, who told the tragic story of her son, followed by Anita Gross of Southwest Allen County Schools. Finally, there was a question and answer session, which was followed by students signing a pledge that they would no longer text while driving. Hopefully, with devastating evidence mounting against this dangerous habit and Parkview's public service announcement, students will be able to abstain from using their phones behind the wheel.

"I think [the PSA] played a huge part in swaying students," Andy Phillippe (11) said. "We all lost Rodney because of his recent accident, and I think [the PSA] was very good. I think it convinced kids not to [text while driving], and it will hopefully save lives."

Whether or not they personally knew Rodney, students and faculty throughout the school have come to view his accident as a wake-up call, evoking the rarely sought need for change. Thompson's PSA was simply another factor that may help convince students to renounce a dangerous habit to which many have succumbed.

"[The incident with Rodney] has affected me a lot," Deister said. "I used to be a big speeder, and I haven't sped since [Rodney's death]. When it comes to texting, I do answer phone calls, but I don't text."

While some students stopped dangerous driving habits at the time of Rodney's death, others relied upon the PSA's facts and testimonies to persuade them.

"I tried to stop [texting and driving] after Rodney passed away, but I really didn't have the motivation to," Price said. "I know I should have, but there was nobody there telling me not to. However, I think that this PSA really helped the situation; they gave us these air fresheners to put in our cars and key chains to remind us. I won't be texting and driving for the rest of my life, hopefully."

Overall, students who attended the conference felt that those involved were very effective in getting their message across. If students apply the lessons they have learned, the efforts made by the Don't Text and Drive campaign will save many lives.

CABARET NIGHT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

reception, all conducted by students, an extravagant occasion.

"All sorts of preparations were made," said Shaw. "We had to make up schedules and give assignments for what students were going to do, such as mingling, selling raffle tickets, entertaining and being ushers. We have been preparing our competition show basically since October, and I would say preparations for Cabaret Night were started at the beginning of the school year."

Working as a team, the show choir members have endured lengthy preparations for Cabaret Night and have high prospects for their competition season.

"We have been learning our songs both vocally and choreographically since the beginning of the school year," Kimi Holmes (12), a member of Class Royale, said. "We have practice every Tuesday and Thursday so we have been working hard in hopes of sweeping a Grand Championship from more than one competition."

"We treated this night as an opportunity to practice performing in front of a large audience so that we may prepare for our upcoming competitions," Valerie Parker (9), also a member of Class Royale, said. "Therefore, we did a lot of run-throughs of the show, just as if we were performing for a competition."

As excitement built for Cabaret Night, many of the younger choir members began to anticipate the competition season which began the following day, Feb. 8. The first competition was held at Northrop High School, and both choirs placed third.

"I am excited to go around to other schools and meet new people from other choirs," Erik Bailey (9), Elite member, said. "I am expecting us to do well. Hopefully we will get the Grand Champion a few times."

Expecting a successful season as well, many long-term members of Class Royale and Elite believed that the Cabaret Night performance was a great precursor to competition.

"We do not know how good we are until we actually perform in front of judges, but I feel like our show choir season will be great this year, and this is the best we have ever been," Megan Meyer (12), Class Royale member, said. "I am extremely confident in the outcome of this year's season, and I have no doubt we will succeed!"

Agreeing with the predictions of his choir members, Shaw believes that all of the hard work put into Cabaret Night and preseason preparations will produce a sensational season.

"I am very excited, and you can see the students show their excitement more than I do. The competitions are always really tough no matter where you go, and all schools are really into show choir around the Midwest," Shaw said. "Also, this is my first year, but I think we have a really good group. The kids are great in both the Elite and Class Royale groups, and I think they are ready to perform because they have been working really hard all year."

DANCE TEAM
CONTINUED FROM 1A

at their own competition, the dance team competed in an exhibition category. However, while the pressure of beating the other teams was off, the dancers were still scored at the competition. In addition, the dancers claimed that there was added pressure to make everything perfect for all of their friends who attended.

"It's a big deal performing in front of all of your friends because they don't always understand dance," Rachel Rifkin (11), varsity dance team member, said. "We worked really hard and it paid off. We are ridiculously good looking [dancers]."

In the weeks leading up to their invitational, the varsity dance team was especially motivated to do well at the competition. Hoping to motivate the dancers, varsity coach Leah Stupeck hung words such as "training," "dedication," "emotion," "fierce" and "sweat" around the dance room for the team to look at during practice. To prepare the dancers for the event, practices were also extremely intense so that the routines were polished.

"We worked extra hard," Madison Eshelman (10), varsity dance team member, said. "Our muscles were aching all week from the intensity of practices. Every time we made a mistake, we had to do ten push ups so that we would learn to not make mistakes. It definitely paid off; our performance was really good."

Though their invitational is over, the dance team will continue to work hard to perfect their dances for the rest of their season.

Excited with the large crowd and anticipating a successful year, Stupeck encouraged the girls prior to their hip-hop performance.

"The crowd is great out there; everyone came to see you," Stupeck said. "Remember what we did in practice. Don't make mistakes. This is the last time [to dance] hip-hop in this gym, so make it count."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Dancers Laura Aleman (11) and Caitlin McComb (11) compete at the Homestead Dance Invitational on Feb. 7. Since the team is not allowed to place at a competition hosted by themselves, they performed in the exhibition category.

OPINION

Ed board promotes students bringing personal laptops into school, 3a

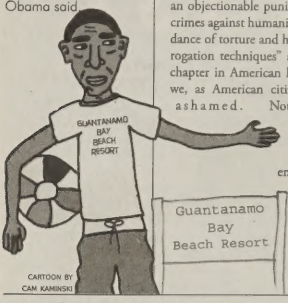
page 3a
issue 9 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Guantanamo Bay | Economic Stimulus Plan | Laptops in Classrooms

Friday, February 13, 2009

LEFT AND WRITE | Guantanamo Bay: Acceptable or Despicable

The Issue: On Jan. 22, 2009, President Barack Obama issued an executive order to shut down Guantanamo Bay, a controversial prison located on the naval base which houses many terrorists associated with the 9/11 attacks. "We have people who have been detained there, many of them who may actually be dangerous," Obama said.



CARTOON BY CAM KAMINSKI

Shameful histories, inevitable end

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Politicians incessantly reinforce a sense of national pride in the moral fortitude of America, but claiming the high ground while Guantanamo Bay Detention Center continues to operate is a despicable form of hypocrisy. Imprisoning suspected terrorists is not an objectionable punishment for their crimes against humanity, but the abundance of torture and hush-hush "interrogation techniques" are a lamentable chapter in American history of which we, as American citizens, should be ashamed. Not only does the Constitution embrace the truth of inherent natural rights entitled to all human beings, but it also expresses a strong legal aversion to torture that cannot be ignored. These codes are not applied exclusively to American citizens, but rather to humanity as a whole, and it is highly unethical for a penitentiary as horrific as Guantanamo Bay to continue to operate. Current inmates should by no means be released to the questionable judgment of their home countries' legal jurisdictions, but instead be transferred to a maximum-security prison. All future suspects of terrorism should be given the fair trial that our Constitution guarantees rather than be spirited away to be slowly and painstakingly driven to death by perpetual torture and standards of living insufficient even in third-world countries. The crime is inexcusable, but who are we to take the criminal's penance in our hands? The United States as a nation is not the ultimate champion of or expert on morality, and it is neither our responsibility nor our place to employ any torture whatsoever in order to communicate a lesson. Torturing terrorists proves us to be no better than them.

Shutting down facility is pointless

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

Flat screen TVs, baked Tandoori chicken breast and air conditioning – sounds unbearable, doesn't it? These pleasures are part of the "unlivable" conditions of Guantanamo Bay Detention Center. For the majority of detainees, their time at "Gitmo," as the prison is known, is providing them with a higher standard of living than their home country was. And they're definitely better off than the soldiers who fought to put them there. In fact, the average terrorist detainee gains 15 pounds while incarcerated at Gitmo, which probably has something to do with the six dinner options. The only support for termination of the prison comes from the anti-military left who are all too ready and willing to believe any anecdote confirming their unfounded notion that there is nothing honorable about the U.S. military.

This faction's favorite adjective to describe Guantanamo Bay is "barbaric," when the barbarism we, as U.S. citizens, should be concerned about, however, is that we would protect the rights of mass murderers before the lives of innocents.

Regardless, America is operated under a constitutional government. Heinous as they are, detainees should be judged by the same fair and speedy trials guaranteed to U.S. citizens. To be the bastion of democracy we say we are, we must maintain due process rights.

But does this require us to shut down the whole facility, which currently serves an undeniably necessary purpose? If we shut down Guantanamo Bay, these radical terrorists are going to be transferred to other prisons (at the taxpayers' expense), closer to civilization and less restricted. Our other option? Leave the terrorists detained on foreign shores – which Obama talks to do. In essence, the same treatment, different location, higher approval rating.

Keep Gitmo open and the detainees will be isolated in an established facility and no more costs will be incurred.

WILL THE ECONOMY JUMPSTART ITSELF?

Stimulus package generates excitement, not results

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

"I think it's important just to remember a little bit of history. When George Bush came into office, we had surpluses. And now we have a half-a-trillion-dollar deficit annually," President Barack Obama said during the final presidential debate.

Like many, President Obama is a critic of former president George W. Bush. During his campaign, President Obama rallied many against the "eight years of increases in deficit spending," by a Republican president and Congress who paid no attention to the national debt. Ironically, the president is now pressuring Congress to have an $800B bill on his desk by Presidents' Day, with no concern for the national debt. If passed, the bill will make hypocrites out of all of those who voted against a supposedly "deficit spending" Republican Congress and for a Democratic one.

Democrats, pushed by Obama, have hastily combined two versions of a "stimulus" package into a $789B bill, and a final vote must be taken in the Senate and House of Representatives. In the House, Democrats refused to compromise, and passed an $827B bill without the vote of a single Republican or even a few members of their own party. In the Senate, Democrats cut spending and added a few tax cuts in an attempt to win over the three Republicans they needed to have the bill passed. The House will assuredly pass the bloated final bill. However, its fate now lingers on three Republicans in the Senate. They may understand Rep. John Boehner's words that 90% of a bad idea is still a bad idea, or they may concede to try to gain votes for the next election.

The problem with this bill has proceeded beyond its contribution to the cyclic, irreversible increase in government spending. Much of the spending for this "economic stimulus package" has no bearing on any type of immediate relief. In a news conference, President Obama said that the Republicans seem to be only pointing out problems with about one percent of the bill, but its problems are far beyond that one percent. The final bill contains over 100 billion dollars for education spending. While spending on education is an investment for the future, how will it provide any relief for the 598,000 jobs lost this past month, one of the many statistics that have been paraded around by Democrats in support of the bill. Such spending makes one question whether this is the "jobs bill" many Democrats say it is. Similarly, tens of billions of dollars towards specific research on energy efficiency will not stimulate economy. Many projects of long term growth are flying under the radar. If President Obama wants improvement now, spending must be restricted to encouraging current job growth. Senators can not hide major spending projects to increase the size of government behind the false pretense of economic stimulus because a larger debate between two policies is involved: the debate between taxing and spending, or cutting and reducing.

If this bill is passed, with or without major support from the right, every American, Republican or Democrat, will hope for its success in providing economic growth. Every American will hope that the largest expansion of government in American history will be a success. Every American will hope that this bill will disprove two centuries of a policy of major spending's failures during an economic relapse. It's a dangerous path to take, and one we must first hope will not be taken.

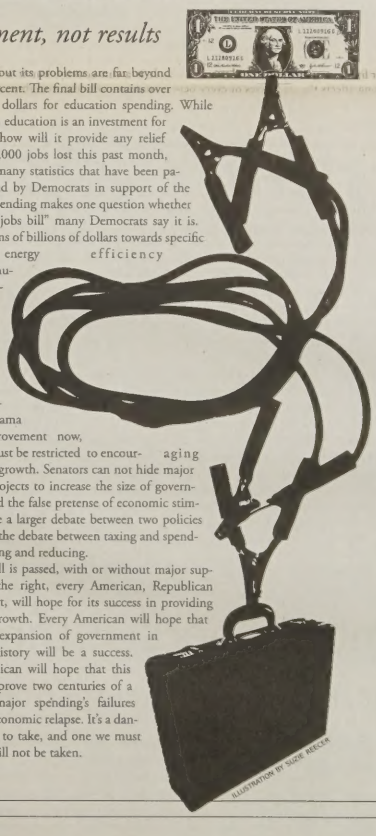


ILLUSTRATION BY SUZIE REECER

Ed board: student laptop use perpetuates technology skills

Technological advancements occur in order to make people and their everyday rituals more efficient. Not only do laptops make it faster to document information, but they also make it simple to take the information anywhere, even to school.

Although laptops are extremely useful, they can also be distracting in the classroom. Inappropriate websites and gaming sites can be accessed. But these evident downsides are easy to solve. All the computers in the SACS district have firewalls, which prevent inappropriate use of the Internet on school computers. Since the SACS computer wizards can do that, why can't they do the same for laptops using wireless connections?

A school that claims to be technology literate should support student laptop use. Yet Assistant Principal Steve Lake recently sent a mass e-mail to the staff that reads "Staff, students are not allowed to plug their personal laptops into any SACS network connection. Please make sure this is not happening in your classrooms."

Allowing laptops in the classrooms would not only be more beneficial to the environment as a result of the smaller amounts of paper used to take notes, but would give teachers more time to do their jobs instead of being secretaries. Think about the amount of time teachers spend making copies for their hundreds of students. Using technology, teachers could put the document on their website, allowing students to download it. When finished, students could e-mail their work to the teacher. It is common in universities to take notes on laptops. Why not allow students here to do the same?

If the school allows laptop use, students will be able to use modern technology to excel. If the school denies students the use of laptops, "Big Brother" will be limiting our education. Which one sounds like a better plan?

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MAT MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DAN VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

CARTOONIST
CAM KAMINSKI

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

students share their personal piercing experiences, motives, 5a

page 4a
issue 10 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Punctured Perspectives

Winter Guard

Foreign Languages

Graduates return as high school teachers

BY HANA SVETLOVICS
WRITER

It may feel like high school never ends to most students trying to get through their high school years. For some, however, the high school environment is enjoyable.

Nick Byall, history teacher, graduated from Homestead in 2000, and after furthering his education at Indiana University, returned to Southwest Allen County Schools as a substitute teacher. After subbing for a year and a half, Byall taught half days and then moved up to the position of a full-day teacher.

"I was looking for a job, and I was comfortable teaching here," Byall said. "Even though I was working with former teachers, they made me feel welcome—like a peer."

As a Homestead student, Byall was involved in baseball, Campus Life, student government and the National Honors Society.

"I really missed that I didn't play [sports] anymore," Byall said. "I always wanted to come back. So when I started subbing, I volunteered with the Homestead baseball team."

Currently, Byall coaches the varsity baseball team that finished as state runner-up last season.

Assistant Principal Steve Lake is also a former Homestead student who graduated in 1981. With at least seven family members employed in school systems, it is not at all surprising that Lake also followed a career path of education.

PHOTO | 1981 RETROSPECT

Steve Lake
Class of '81

After graduating from Ball State, Lake taught drafting and engineering in the East Allen County Schools district. However, when he caught wind about a job offer at Homestead from a former Homestead mentor, Lake applied for the job and was subsequently hired.

"When I got the job back at that time, Homestead was up and coming," Lake said. "It was one of the best schools in the area and still is today. That's why I like it."

With the position of assistant principal, Lake has many different, but not always fun, responsibilities.

"There's a big difference in teaching and being an administrator," Lake said. "The students don't like us. My main concern is the safety of the kids."

Always keeping safety in the back of his mind, Lake is a big fan of the student section at sporting events.

"People come up to me concerned about students being too close to the court, but I just think it's great," Lake said. "I want students to have the most fun they can without causing problems for other kids."

Following in the footsteps of her mother, Bekki Vail, science teacher, also became a teacher at Homestead after time spent at Butler University and the University of Wisconsin.

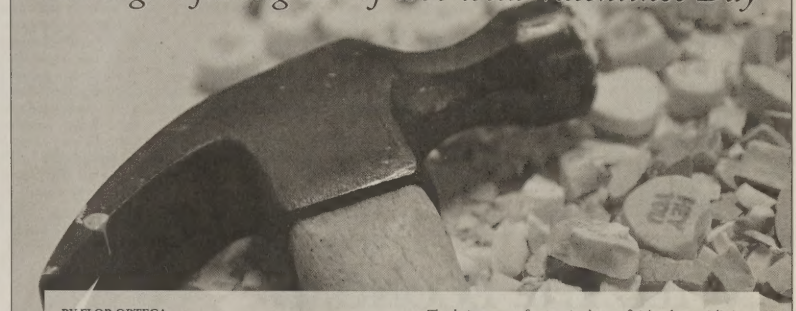
"I thought about studying marine biology or going to medical school, but education seemed to work the best," Vail said. "Someday I'd like to teach college classes."

The 1983 graduate gained her first teaching experience at Carroll High School. After teaching there for seven years, Vail left to raise her family. When she was ready to come back, there just happened to be an opening at Homestead.

"[Homestead] was close to my home, and I knew my kids would be going there, so it just seemed like the right choice," Vail said.

CUPID ANGST

Teenagers falling out of love with Valentine's Day



BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

"Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm free tonight, how about you?"

This phrase is along the lines of what a typical high school student would consider appropriate poetry for a Valentine's Day greeting. With the traditional romantic aspect of the holiday almost nonexistent in high school, students tend to disregard the lovers' celebration Among theories surrounding the holiday's emergence is the legend that Valentine's Day originates from Saint Valentine who, after having suffered a terrible heartbreak, pierced his own chest, removed his heart and sent his mistress the palpitating heart as a symbol of his undying love for her. Saint Valentine's pulsing present led to the customary exchange of heart-shaped gifts between loved ones on Valentine's Day. Most teens clearly do not experience an extremely passionate love like Saint Valentine's and are not dying to literally rip their hearts out for their loved ones; yet, the entire mood of the holiday seems to be less celebrated during the high school years.

"Some people get really bitter about Valentine's Day. They forget that even if they don't have a valentine this year, they're young and will enjoy the holiday later in life," Anna Orlow (12) said.

Teenage disapproval of the clichéd holiday stems not only from the lack of a significant other to celebrate it with, but from the excessive attention and importance it is given by the rest of the American public.

"The Valentine's Day we know is nothing more than a commercialized holiday made to give card and candy companies and florists an extra burst of profit. Pretty much, it's just like any other day of the year, but for some reason it's more acceptable to give gifts to your significant other on this day," Sarah Ali (11) said. "Why not give a gift to your significant other on any other day of the year? It just seems so silly to me."

The desire to stray from society's superficial and materialistic customs virtually drives Valentine's Day off of many teenagers' calendars. In addition, most students are also unable to fully engage themselves in an elaborate Valentine's Day celebration complete with pricey gifts and exotic chocolates because of their limited budgets.

"For a lot of guys, it's a holiday that you don't look forward to because all it means is that you have to go out on a really expensive date or put a bit of effort into something creatively wonderful. That's a lot of work and planning," Evan Hanley (12) said.

Despite negative critiques, Valentine's Day has not been completely abandoned by the teenage community. There are high school students who enjoy the amorous atmosphere provided by Cupid's holiday.

"One of my friends keeps obsessing over it and keeps talking to me about how she is going to send a gift to her boyfriend at IU. She keeps asking everyone what they're doing for their boyfriends and is turning it into a competition," Erica Wurst (11) said.

The high school population certainly has come a long way from the days of elementary school, where sending Valentine's cards to classmates was a required task.

"High school students probably don't [send Valentine's cards] anymore because they have different people in all of their classes, which could get kind of expensive and messy," Ali said. "I don't give them out any more, because I'd feel silly handing out cards with Disney Princesses, Hannah Montana or Dora the Explorer on them. That's not my kind of thing."

For a holiday all about love, cheesy cartoon cards seem to be unnecessary, while the significance of the holiday itself is debatable.

"Although I don't mean to downgrade the importance of a holiday that's all about expressing your love for someone, do we really need a special holiday where the love is greater? Can't I just be loving every day?" Hanley said.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Fall guard members persist through cold months

Despite change in temperature, color guard continues to perform in winter

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

Most people do not associate flags and rifles with high school girls. And even fewer associate them with colored tarps, gymnasiums and Saturday competitions. But for 26 female students, those things are exactly what flags and rifles mean.

Two years ago, a winter guard was started for all the members of the fall color guard. The winter competitions and shows highlight the talent of the guard members, unlike the fall guard season in which the guard highlights the marching band.

A winter guard show is around seven to eight minutes long and is performed in a gym on a colored tarp instead of on a football field. Music from a CD player replaces the music played by the marching band that the fall guard uses.

"[Winter guard shows] are a mix of dance, flag, rifle and saber," Emily Sterneman (10) said.

Members of the winter guard also take a winter guard class, during which they practice every single day in the gym in the freshman academy during sixth period.

"It is a lot of exercise and dance [and is] very physical," Sterneman said.

Besides meeting during sixth period, the winter guard meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays after school. In addition to all the practice, they have competitions nearly every Saturday from December until March. The competitions are what prepare them for the state finals in March and seem to be the highlight for the girls.

"It is nice to always have something to do [on Saturdays] and to always have a friend around," Trisha Krall (11) said.

"[I like to] see other guards and perform for an audience that is excited to see us," Alise DeBruce (11) said.

DeBruce, Krall and Sterneman all agree that they prefer winter guard over fall guard. All three say that winter guard is more difficult because they have a larger variety of tricks to perform with their flags, rifles and sabers.

> "[I like to] see other guards and perform for an audience that is excited to see us."
>
> **EMILY DEBRUCE (11)**
> Winter guard member

Winter guard demands not only the physical ability to throw and catch large items, but also to remember where a person needs to be at an exact moment.

"It [requires] an awful lot of muscle memory," Sterneman said.

The girls who participate in the winter guard learn "responsibility and time management," according to DeBruce. The winter guard was started during DeBruce's freshman year and she was "just kind of dragged into it" because nobody knew exactly what they were doing.

The winter guard also leaves its members with a "sense of accomplishment" along with the ability to "work as a team and cooperate even if it is hard," according to Sterneman. The winter guard involves a lot of hard work and stress, but in between those moments, the girls find ways to have a lot of fun.

All the hard work that the girls do is for the seven minutes in March when they will perform in the state competition. However, all the members also have individual reasons for working so hard. Some just "love it," as Krall does, while others like the feeling of accomplishing something after hard work. Either way, being a member of the winter guard is obviously worth it to at least 26 students.

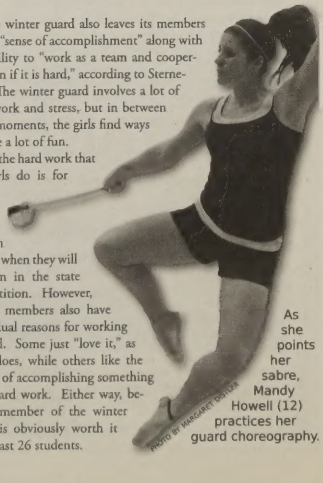


PHOTO BY MARGARET DAVIDS

As she points her sabre, Mandy Howell (12) practices her guard choreography.

Foreign language classes encourage extra practice

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

While foreign language classes in high school provide a colorful insight into the language and culture of other countries, many students never pursue the language past the high school requirements. Significant benefits, however, can be reaped for those that do more.

"Since seventh grade, foreign language has come easy to me," Kimi Holmes (12), a foreign language enthusiast, said. Holmes is taking Spanish V, French II, and German I. Some may think this is impossible, but Holmes' passion for languages keeps her committed.

"I hope that my dedication in high school will help me reach my goal of becoming a translator. I am going to go to Ball State next year to study language, and I also hope to take another language next year, like Chinese."

Ball State offers several foreign language classes beyond the four at Homestead, such as Chinese, Japanese and Greek. There are fifteen different study abroad destinations, including Italy, Spain, Austria and Mexico.

"Taking a foreign language in high school expands [one's] study abroad options," Gregory Fryzel, French III, IV and V teacher, said.

One way to get a glimpse of a country that speaks Spanish is Homestead's Costa Rica trip. Visiting Costa Rica allows students to explore a country that speaks Spanish, and provides a study abroad experience.

"I chose to go on this trip because some of my friends are going, and I thought it would be cool to travel to a new country that I have never been to before with my friends," Christy Tatara (12) said. "I am going to continue to study Spanish in college, along with medicine, so I thought that this trip would give me a glimpse of what life is like in other countries, so that in my future career, I might be able to bring medical relief into other Spanish-speaking countries." Tatara said.

Even though students are not required to take a foreign language to graduate from Homestead, two years of a foreign language is strongly recommended. To graduate with Academic Honors, at least three years of one language, or two years of two languages is required. World Languages can not only help you graduate from high school, but can help you in your future.

"Foreign languages help to improve your college and employment potential," Fryzel said.

Here at Homestead, about half of the student body is currently enrolled in a foreign language. Sixty-three percent of these students are taking Spanish, compared to seventeen percent in French. German and Latin have even fewer students.

Whether speaking a foreign language for a career or just casually, one can often find groups of friends practicing their languages for fun. Fort Wayne is home to numerous ethnic establishments, such as Cebolla's Mexican Bar and Grill, that feature employees who speak in foreign languages.

"It's fun to try to speak the language to people that speak it regularly," Rachel Stephens (10), who often orders in Spanish at Cebolla's, said.

As our country becomes increasingly multicultural, foreign language students will be well-prepared for college and job opportunities, as well as immersion in various community events.

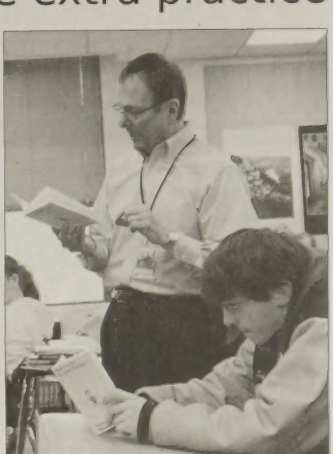


PHOTO BY KYLE DOUGLASS

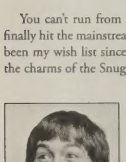
As Sebastian Meintel (11) follows along, Mr. Gregory Fryzel reads aloud a short story from *Le Petit Nicholas* to his French IV class while students translate.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

The current numbers of students enrolled in foreign language according to Mrs. Dianne Moake:

French- 219
Spanish- 826
German- 98
Latin- 149

Live the snug life



BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOC. EDITOR

You can't run from the Snuggie. It has finally hit the mainstream. Even though it's been my wish list since I've succumbed to the charms of the Snuggie, it has sadly not been recognized as a serious product until now.

One night, I was just sitting there, minding my own business while channel surfing, when all of a sudden, I saw the most magical thing ever. Boy, was it a sight to behold. I never thought I would, but I finally saw the blanket … the blanket with sleeves.

I was attempting to stay cozy under my now inadequate blanket, gawking at the product presented in front of me. I had imagined that the day would come when people's arms didn't have to suffer the frigid 68 degree living room just to eat their Orville Redenbacher, but I never thought it would happen during my lifetime.

The invention has exploded in popularity in the past month, perhaps because of the chilly weather we've been having lately, or maybe it's just the universal appeal of being able to walk about your house while still being toasty warm. Whatever the reason, people have taken notice.

Made of "ultra-soft, thick, luxurious fleece," this revolutionary product will save you from looking ridiculous the next time you root for your team at the football game on a chilly autumn night, and you find yourself stuck with that boring, old blanket. The Snuggie is the hot new gift of our generation, and if you don't think that shelling out $19.95 is worth it, I don't think you fully comprehend the versatility of the garment.

It comes in three trendy colors (Royal Blue, Sage Green and Burgundy) to match your shoes or mood of the day.

One size fits all—you only need one Snuggie for you, your five-year old cousin and your 7-foot-two neighbor.

You'll save money. Instead of spending your precious money to heat your house, just dawn the blanket with sleeves and you can throw out your furnace.

If you find yourself with no costume ideas on Halloween, there's no need to fret. Just head over to your hall closet, put on your Snuggie and you'll have instantly become a foppish monk from the order of Snuggie. The uses for the Snuggie are unlimited.

If I had to bet on why the notorious backwards robe is so successful, I'd put my money on the ever-persuasive infomercial. The high-budget commercial features a family who just can't seem to get by with that blanket that "slips and slides." With the Snuggie, Grandpa can change the TV channel, Mom can answer the phone and Grandma can even read a book.

The Snuggie doesn't judge, no matter who you are. Black or white, male or female, young or old, Democrat or Republican, the Snuggie provides the same comfort and style to everyone. No wonder over four millions of these cloaks of constant comfort have been sold as of Jan. 2009.

Go ahead and take umbrage with the Snuggie if you want, but don't come complaining to me when you find yourself unable to stay warm under that pathetic afghan of yours.

PUNCTURED *perspectives*

Students recall piercing experiences, motives, discrimination

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Body piercings can serve a wide variety of purposes encompassing anything from dressing up an outfit with colorful jewelry to making a flamboyant statement to the public. While Fort Wayne is home to numerous piercing establishments and it has become more common for an American woman to have pierced ears than not to, the ever-present risks of infection and loss of credibility in the workplace may cause some to wonder- is it really worth it?

A 2002 Johns Hopkins study of university students revealed that while half of the student body had piercings, over 20% reported medical complications as a result. Despite the considerable hazard of getting pierced and the anticipation of the pain that comes with it, some students believe that the end result is entirely worth it.

"I have my belly button pierced, my nose pierced and my ears double-pierced. I was a little concerned about my belly button getting infected because I heard it hurt so badly. The infection [I got] took forever to clear up and heal, but it wasn't too painful, to be honest," Natalie Hicks (10) said.

"I have my ears and belly button pierced. I wasn't really worried about infection, because I knew that if I cleaned it daily and waited for it to heal, I would be solid," Kellie Julius (12) said.

While infection and pain are often factors considered in the decision-making process, the decision may be taken more lightly by some than by others. A measure of value may lie with spontaneity, but is there something to be gained by careful consideration and time for contemplation?

"I thought about getting my belly button pierced for a few hours before I got it pierced; it was a spur of the moment thing," Hicks said. "I decided to get my nose pierced when my friend had hers done and I thought it looked really cute, so I had it in the back of my mind for a few days."

"I wanted my piercing done about a year ago, but I wasn't all for it then, so I waited and never went until this year. A lot of girls had it done and on some it looks cute, so it was really a 'why not?' sort of thing," Julius said.

Amassing a collection of piercings may seem like daring fun during adolescence, but the disparaging public glances associated with unusual body art serve as a quick lesson to those who have shocked society with their audacious piercings. However, while some may be able to conceal their body jewelry, others may not be so lucky and will be forced to face the social stigma.

"Unusual piercings cause society to frown at people. I know that most jobs make you remove them even though they do not affect the performance of most people in their work. I think that people place labels on others because they dare to be different with simple piercings." Hicks said. "I can't say that I'm someone who doesn't judge 'different' piercings, but having one has made me take a second look at judging others. Still, [my piercing] is a part of me that people can learn to accept, I'm still the same person and my nose ring hasn't changed me. It's just changed my appearance."

Not only do unusual piercings affect teenagers in day-to-day life, but they may also have an adverse affect on adults in today's troubled economy with an increasing emphasis on professionalism in the workplace.

"I have had both of my ears double-pierced since I was eighteen. I choose not to wear them at school because I feel that it looks less 'professional' to students and other teachers," Curtis Shaw, Homestead's choral director, said. "There was really nothing that influenced me to get them; I just wanted them. If a student asked my advice, I would never advise a student one way or the other about piercings, but I would give them the facts if they asked me."

While unusual body piercings may not suit everyone and infection or discomfort may be a prevalent worry, many people's experiences have shown that the end justifies the means.

PIERCING percentages

from a study conducted at myrtle beach in 2007

one in seven:
18-50 year olds have piercings in places other than earlobes

25% of people:
reported medical problems

one in three:
18-29 year olds have piercings in places other than earlobes

3/4 of people:
interviewed with piercings in the study were women

3/4 of people:
got their piercings before reaching the age 24

18% of employees:
said their tattoos or piercings have impacted business

75% of people:
reported chipped or broken teeth from mouth or tongue peircings

must be 18:
to get a piercing, or accompanied by a guardian, or specific and precise permission form according to South Carolina state laws

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

SPORTS

girls basketball falls short in sectional game against south side, 7a

page 6a
issue 10 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Signing Athletes

Girls Basketball

Spartan Coaches

Friday, February 13, 2009

Every step of the way

Coaches dedicate long hours during, away from season

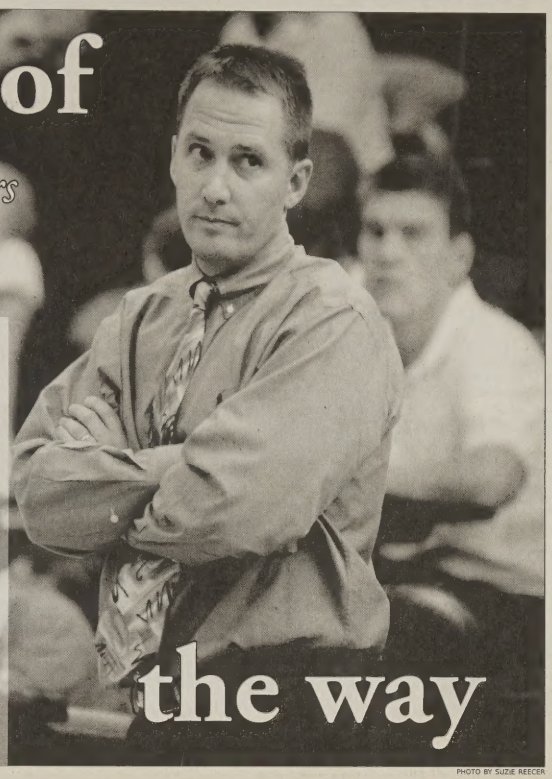


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Coach Chris Johnson has developed the boys basketball program through 10 years coaching.

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

Watching hours of game film, spending summer days in the weight room, attending every home and away game and not getting one minute of playing time might sound rough to any athlete. For a high school coach, however, this schedule is all in a season's work. Despite this fact, coaches continue to do their job with a love for the players and the game.

"Coaching for me is the opportunity to get to know the kids, train them and have those wonderful moments when it all comes together for their personal best achievement," Jill Eakright, varsity dive coach, said.

Every season, coaches spend just as much time, if not more, coaching their players as the players spend playing and training. Chris Johnson, head coach of the boys' varsity basketball team, spends approximately 270 hours with the team during the off season as well as approximately 150 hours over the course of the three month season.

The hours continue to add up when hours of watching film without the players is taken into account. While coaching the basketball team requires a large time commitment, Johnson also must find the time to work as the assistant principal of Woodside Middle School.

"It can be challenging at times," Johnson, who has been coaching basketball at Homestead for fifteen years, said. "However, if you are organized and prioritize your work it isn't too bad."

A typical day for Eakright involves waking up at around 4:45 a.m. for the team's daily one and a half hour practice during its three month season. Eakright, like Johnson, also works in the education field as a physical education at Arcola Elementary School.

"The balance can be very hard and tiring at times. It requires a bunch of planning and staying organized in both professions," Eakright, who has been coaching the dive team for the past four years, said.

While the time commitment is demanding, other coaches feel the worst part of the job is being away from their family. Randy Pursley, the head coach of the wrestling team for six years, has a six-month old daughter who he would love to spend more time with if it were not for coaching.

"Coaching a sport is very time consuming regardless of whether you have children," Pursley, whose team is currently advancing through the postseason tournament series, said. "There are certain days that I don't see my daughter awake because I leave early and get home late."

Although the time commitment is a disadvantage when it comes to coaching teams, the rewarding aspects outweigh the negatives. For many coaches, players are like family to them, and they spend as much as six hours after school with the team.

"The most rewarding part of coaching is the kids," Pursley said. "We have some very dedicated athletes and it is a pleasure to work with them as they strive to reach their goals. In many aspects, the wrestling team is like an extended family to me."

Coaching may not be the most recognized job when it comes to making sports teams run, but in reality, all teams would be lost without their coaches.

COACHES CORNER

Coach	Sport	Years as Coach
Rod Parker	Girls Basketball	8 years
Dick Shenfeld	Boys Cross Country	34 years
Jim Clark	Boys Tennis	30 years
Jill Eakright	Diving	14 years

Looking to defend conference title

Boys basketball prepares for Carroll game tomorrow

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

The boys' varsity basketball team's season-long marathon has turned into a sprint down the final stretch of the season. With one conference game left to play this Saturday against archrival Carroll, the team is focused on winning a consecutive conference title. With the Spartans' win against Norwell and Carroll's win against Columbia City, the stage has been set for a winner-take-all match-up.

The Spartans enter the game with a 5-1 conference record and the Chargers sit at 6-0. Both teams know that a conference title is at stake in the game. Last year's meeting was a barnburner, with Carroll pulling away in the final minutes to win 48-39. This year's game might be similar, with both teams averaging just over fifty points per game.

This is not the first time a conference title has been decided between these two schools this year; the girls' varsity soccer team defeated the Chargers in the last thirty seconds to win their conference title.

"To be able to play in a big game and win conference my first year is really exciting," Zach Terrell (9) said. "Especially to be playing against [Carroll]; it makes the game even bigger."

The Spartans win over New Haven last Saturday in overtime gave the team much needed confidence that they can win in clutch moments. The team did not hold a lead against the Bulldogs until the first minute of overtime. Experiencing close games could be helpful in tomorrow's showdown.

"Carroll really likes to put pressure on the ball," Terrell said. "We cannot be careless with the ball."

Another key factor in Saturday's game will be the crowd. The team hopes that there is a large turnout, especially in the student section. During the past couple of home games, the "Rod Sillies," as members of the student section are known, have not been as silly as the players would have liked. However, the team is confident that students will come out in big numbers for the game.

"We play for the fans every game," Andy Philippe (11) said. "They are always a big help to our team."

A conference championship would nearly be the perfect ending to a regular season that was struck with tragedy before the season even began. The team would love nothing more than to dedicate a conference title to former basketball player Rodney Thompson, who passed away in October. If the crowd wants a conference championship as much as the team does, the "Rod Sillies" should come support their cause.

"We pray for Rod before every game and do our thing to remember him in front of the student section," Philippe said. "We would love to win this for him."

The stage is set for tomorrow afternoon's match-up. The winner takes home the Northeast Hoosier Conference title, which could be the Spartans' second straight. The Spartans will definitely have the emotional buildup and home court advantage to win this game. The Chargers, on the other hand, will use last year's win as motivation to try to win the game and the conference title. With Rodney in their hearts and the "Rod Sillies" on their sides, the team is looking to accomplish something that has never been done in school basketball history: winning back-to-back conference championships.

LAST NHC GAME

Who: Homestead vs. Carroll
Where: Home
When: Saturday, February 14 at 2:30 p.m.

YMCA intramural basketball teams kick off season by choosing names

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

This time of year is known for conference championships and sectional games for the varsity basketball teams. However, for the students who do not play varsity basketball, this time of the year can only mean one thing: intramural basketball.

The six-week long intramural season started on Jan. 12. Due to inclement weather, however, the season will last a little longer than the original allotted time. After the regular season is concluded, there are playoffs to determine the champions.

The upperclassmen and the underclassmen are separated into two divisions. Upperclassmen play in the "A Division," which is comprised of eleven teams, while underclassmen play in the "B Division," which is made up of six teams. Separating the teams into two divisions makes the games more competitive and makes each playoff tournament more fair.

> "Every year every team wants a name that's funny or something that just sounds good. This year we wanted something that meant something to all of us."
>
> **JUAN ALVAREX (12)**
> Squad R.O.D.

This year's teams in the "A Division" include The Monstars, Mole Rats, Hoover High Bucks, Talent Vacancy, Squad R.O.D., U. Trouble and Phat Asymptotes.

For some, the hardest part of intramural basketball is coming up with a team name that fits the team, creates a sense of fear or shows off the team's sense of humor and creativity. The hit basketball movie "Space Jam" inspired the name for the Monstars team.

The Phat Asymptotes are talked about as the favorites this year, with their hilarious name leaving one to wonder how they came up with it.

"One day in Mr. Stailey's math class last year, we were on a unit involving asymptotes. I burst out saying 'phat asymptotes.' Mr. Stailey laughed and agreed that it was a perfect choice for a team name. He is now our proud supporter and avid fan," Derek Kinzer (12) said.

The team name may leave some students wondering what exactly a phat asymptote is, other than just another mathematical term.

"From geometry class, lines have no thickness so I did not realize that asymptotes could be phat," Stailey said.

U. Trouble is a team comprised of seniors and juniors. They try to intimidate teams with their pestering defense

"The 'U.' in our team name stands for 'you are in' trouble because of the ferocious defense we are able to play," Jake Renkenberger (11) said.

Squad R.O.D. chose their name to honor fellow senior Rodney Thompson, who passed away in October.

"Every year every team wants a name that's funny or something that just sounds good. This year we wanted something that meant something to all of us. That's where Squad R.O.D. came into play," Juan Alvarez (12) said.

Other teams just play because they like basketball and want to have fun with their friends, such as the team Talent Vacancy.

"After looking up and down our roster, we realized there was no talent. So we decided Talent Vacancy would be a good name," Michael Rorick (12) said.

Awesome team names, competitiveness and fun are what have made intramural basketball popular throughout the years. With intramural basketball being an alternative to varsity basketball, these teams and games are not just a mathematical term derived from Mr. Stailey. These intramural games are a lifestyle.

On winning with dignity

The point of a game is to win. Plain and simple. A team should win with pride and lose with dignity, but every once in a while, there are teams that go above and beyond playing for the love of the game. And when I say above and beyond playing for the love of the game, I mean these teams look to embarrass their opponents.

A few weeks ago, a story was featured on the ESPN website homepage announcing that The Covenant School girls' varsity basketball team of Dallas, TX defeated Dallas Academy, a school that specializes in teaching students struggling with "learning disabilities," by a score of 100-0. After the score was posted in a local Dallas newspaper, national news stations got word of the beat-down and the story immediately became bigger than Barry Bonds' head. Criticism and harsh words were being shouted towards The Covenant School, which issued an official apology on its website, declaring that the team had achieved "victory without honor." Yet, the head coach of The Covenant School girls' basketball team, Micah Grimes, refused to apologize "for a wide-margin victory when my girls played with honor and integrity." Sure, they might have played with those characteristics, but at the end of the day, the coach needs to see the big picture. According to one parent at the game, the players on The Covenant School team continued to shoot and make three pointers in the fourth quarter. Was it too much to ask the team to only take two-point shots? A 100-0 victory was easily avoidable, especially against a team with many of its players struggling with learning disabilities.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

After this story made national news on ESPN, CNN, ABC and other broadcasting stations, one would think this kind of "victory without honor" would never happen again. However, this dishonorable act happened again, right in our backyard.

On Tues., Feb. 3, Canterbury High School's boys' varsity basketball team embarked on a journey to the "victory without honor" level of competition. Playing against White's Institute, an "opportunity" high school that specializes in teaching students with disabilities and unstable living conditions, such as foster kids, Canterbury went on to win by a score of 136-36. The Cavalier starters combined for 110 points, as Andy Ottenweller led the team with 42 points off of 12 three-pointers.

"I would much rather win in a close game than in a blowout where personal pride is put above the concept of a team sport."

CHRIS RAY
Sports Editor

From the stat-book itself, it is obvious that Canterbury kept their foot on the gas far longer than Jeff Gordon does at the average NASCAR race. The Cavaliers led 34-11 after one quarter, which easily put the game out of hand. Yet, head coach Ben Ottenweller kept his best players in, pushing the score to 60-26 at halftime. Along the way, Andy Ottenweller (12) captured the school scoring record, while reserve Davis Rao (9) scored 3 points. Now, do you see where I'm going with this?

Like The Covenant School of Dallas, Canterbury must realize the mistake their basketball team made by defeating an opportunity high school like White's Academy. It's essentially the same story with a different cover. Whatever happened to winning with pride and dignity?

No offense to either of the schools, but I would much rather win in a close game than in a blowout where personal pride is put above the concept of a team sport. At some point, all coaches must realize that there are more important things than winning a game. A warning to coaches who find themselves in a similar situation: pump the brakes.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Local television stations broadcasted Jordan Barnes (12) signing his letter of intent on Feb. 4 in the Community Room.

READY. SET. SIGN.

Over the past four years, countless athletes have walked through the halls dreaming of taking their game to the next level. Only a select few, however, actually take their game to a college campus. In light of the national college signing day that occurred last week, the Spartana caught up with three Spartan athletes who will be playing Division I sports next year: varsity swimmer McKenzie Bagan (12), who will be going to Toledo, varsity tennis player Jade Johnson (12) who will be going to Bowling Green and varsity football player Jordan Barnes (12), who will be going to Oklahoma State.

Spartana: Why Toledo?

Bagan: The Toledo team is much like the Homestead team, all close and always with each other. When I signed the papers to [commit to] Toledo, I had the feeling that I knew I made the right choice on where I wanted to go to college.

Spartana: What are you most looking forward to about college?

Bagan: I am really looking forward to the college experience in general. On average, we go to 4 classes a day for about 50 minutes which I think is pretty awesome. I'm also looking forward to becoming more independent and not relying on my parents to make decisions for me compared to making all the decisions myself.

Spartana: Why Bowling Green?

Johnson: I chose Bowling Green because I loved everything about it. The coach, the team and the campus fit me perfectly. I received a full ride scholarship at a Division 1 school, which is what I've been working so hard for all these years.

Spartana: What would be one thing you would change about your high school athletic career?

Johnson: The first two years at Homestead our team was lucky enough to make it to state. If I could change one thing, I wish our team could have raised one more level to win the state championship. I hope we can work to that goal this year!

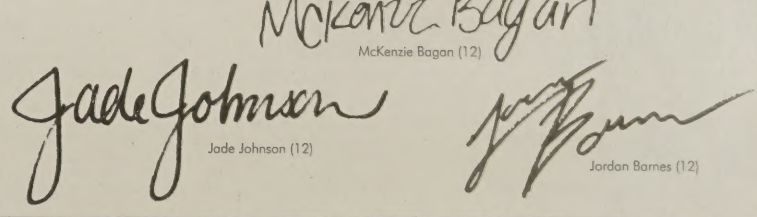
Spartana: Why Oklahoma State?

Barnes: Basically, the coaching staff; they made me feel really comfortable and there is a great chance that I could play early as a freshman and maybe a lot more as a sophomore.

Spartana: What are you most looking forward to about going to Oklahoma State?

Barnes: I went to visit there a couple weeks ago and I loved everything about it. The fact that it's such a big campus and a big school made it good to go there as well. Oklahoma State plays in the Big 12 with some of the best teams in the country, so it's awesome to know I will play against the likes of players like Colt McCoy and Sam Bradford. Trying to stop them will be really fun.

THE SIGN OF THEIR LIVES



McKenzie Bagan (12)

Jade Johnson (12)

Jordan Barnes (12)

Relentless Lady Spartans end season in close game against South Side

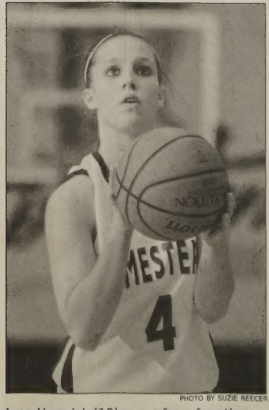


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Jena Hamrick (10) preps for a free throw.

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

The girls' varsity basketball team's game against the Dekalb Lady Barons was nothing short of intense. While the girls lost the exciting, close game, the officiating left a lot to be desired after over-time and the ejection of Coach Rod Parker.

"Parker had a right to be livid," Tori Rowe (12) said.

The team's coach was removed after attesting a no-call at the end of the game. While there was 10.9 seconds left to go in the game and the girls were down by one point, Jena Hamrick (10) got a shot off in the last seconds and looked as if she was fouled, but no whistle was blown. The same thing happened to Terraysha Gordon (11). Nikki Wilson (12) was also fouled after a shot, and finally, the whistle was blown. Unfortunately, the call occurred after the final buzzer rang.

"The referees thought that since they did not blow the whistle until after the buzzer, the foul did not count. They were wrong; there was a foul and there should have been two foul shots to determine the outcome of the game," Wilson said.

Coach Parker was proud that his girls never gave up, but was upset about the way the referees handled the call. After the end of the game he was given two technical fouls. The ejection would have resulted in the coach being suspended from the next game, which will be on senior night. It also would also have meant that instead of a tip off, the game would have started with four technical free-throws.

"This team has had many difficulties, but we have come together and meshed so well ... We have been a great team."

NIKKI WILSON (12)
Varsity Basketball Player

"After a sit down with the referees and the athletic administration at Dekalb Parker's technical fouls were taken away and everything worked out," Whitney Neal (10) said. "We haven't let it affect us; we are all focused on sectionals now."

However, the road to sectionals was not easy for the team. After a win against Leo last Friday at home, the girls prepared to play South Side, after suffering a frustrating defeat against the team earlier this season. Although the Archers took home the win after the first match-up, the team was ready to play them again.

The game was hard-fought throughout, with the lead changing back and forth throughout the entire 32 minutes of regulation. However, at the end of the first half, South Side had an 11 point lead.

The second half was a different story for the relentless Lady Spartans. Throughout the second half, the team continued to claw back into the game against the state-ranked Lady Archers. Time after time, the team closed the gap to two points back, but just couldn't seem to get over the hump. Foul trouble hurt the Lady Spartans, as both Neal and Carmen Lowe (9) fouled out in the fourth quarter. In the end, the ladies couldn't pull off the upset, falling to the Archers 52-54.

"This team has had many difficulties, but we have come together and meshed so well. This has definitely shown in the second half of our season," Wilson said. "We have been a great team."

Michael Grier (11), Ahmed Tabron (11), Eric Johns (12), and Garrett High School student Alex Stoltie.

ALL PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

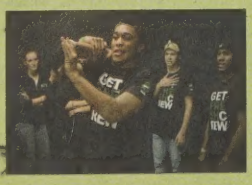
BREAKING IT DOWN WITH

One Fresh Crew

Above: Stoltie takes inspiration from the Jabbawockeez dance crew–seen on MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew." Left: Michael Grier (11) performs a move in front of other members of the group and various Homestead students.

BY DEREK LUTTRELL
COPY EDITOR

Parnell Avenue may be a foreign land to most students on Saturday nights, but the members of the Get Fresh Crew set themselves apart from the rest as they dance their way through surrounding clubs, competing for respect, street credentials and local recognition.



Ahmed Tabron (11) prepares for the preliminary popping round on Feb. 7.

When I walked through the graffitied doors of the Hip Hop Dance Studio, I could not keep from experiencing the artistic phenomenon that was occurring on that highly anticipated Saturday night. It was rather comforting, to walk into a building with a single room, sized smaller than the average cafeteria and scented with every cologne available — there were even three grandmothers in attendance — one of which who danced The Robot to the beat of the crowd's clapping and chanting. Mildly pessimistic about entering such a foreign environment, I was pleased to see some familiar faces from the Homestead hallways.

"Dancing has always been one of my hobbies, and I wanted to support the Get Fresh Crew and watch them dance, as well as the other talented people that were there," Derek Kinzer (12) said. "It was cool to see us all come together and share our passion for dancing."

Once one Southwest Allen local showed up, a surprising domino effect of an apparent Get Fresh Crew posse started flowing through the club doors — something I never had imagined to occur in a hip hop studio, and quite an unnatural hodgepodge of social statuses indeed.

"It was great seeing how many Homestead students showed up to the battle," Eric Johns (12), member of the GFCrew, said. "As I was dancing, I wanted to prove myself. I see dancing as an expression of feeling and an outlet to stress. I wanted to represent the GFC to the fullest, and let my mind go and have the music flow through me."

Fort Wayne Hip Hop Dance is an dance facility by day and competition host by night that welcomes all up and coming dance talent to partake in an all-night battle for a 200 dollar grand prize. The Get Fresh Dance Crew, made up of Johns, Ahmed Tabron (11), Michael Grier (11) and other members from surrounding schools, competes in these battles in the popping division — a style of dance in which the popper repeatedly contracts and relaxes his or her muscles to the beat of a rhythmic tune in combination with various movements and poses. Although popping is done on an individual basis, the Get Fresh Dance Crew competes together in an effort to increase their odds of winning the cash prize.

"[The Get Fresh Crew] doesn't compete very often, but we practice choreography every week and have participated in paid venues at local parties and events before," Tabron said.

The format of the evening was rather tiresome — two hours of an open dance floor for private battles, and, from what I saw, a good time to fill up the little black book with as many strangers' phone numbers as possible, followed by a popping and break dancing competition that took up the remainder of the evening. The competition began with a preliminary round of popping, a round "to see if [the dancers] are good enough to be in the competition." After the preliminary popping round, the crowd-pleasing break dance battles began, where the head-spinning and crotch-taunting sought no limits. The diversity of the competing dancers was remarkable, ranging from a 13 year old Sycamore Hills dweller, decked out with the latest American Eagle sweater and America footwear, to a 37 year old female Target cashier set out to blow off some steam from the preceding week. Overall, a rather contrasting light was cast onto the typical stereotypes that Homestead is bounded to that night, as the secret talents of unrecognized students were discovered and a unified passion radiated through the room with each handstand, backflip and toe touch.

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 11 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Academic team clinches fifth at state contest

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Studying their way through competition season and earning impressive scores at regionals, the Academic Decathlon team went to Purdue University from Feb. 13 through 15 to compete for the state title. Receiving fifth place, the students feel proud of their accomplishments, especially considering the tough competition that they faced.

"These students are very dedicated, trustworthy, very responsible, love to excel and perform well."

JON BAKER
Team Sponsor

"I think we did well [in the state competitions], but it's hard to say because we don't get to see our test scores," Meghan O'Connor (12) said. "Some of us did get medals in the subjects that we scored high in, though."

The Academic Decathlon consists of nine students who compete in 10 different academic events, including speech, essay, interview, math, science, music, art, social studies, literature and economics. In each of these events, the competition is arranged into three separate categories with three students in each; A students are in honors, B students are in Scholastic and C students are in Varsity. For the essay and speech competitions, students arrange their own speeches and write an essay. The other categories compete with scantron tests. Every year, all of the events, except for math, speech and interview, have a special topic that somehow relates to the designated categories. This year, the topic was Latin America.

In preparation for their state competition, team members had a chance to practice everyday after school with a select group of teachers who sponsor the event, including Jon Baker, Jeff Livensparger, Howard Jankowski, Jr. Stailey and Jeff Stumpf. Everyday a different teacher is assigned a different topic to discuss; however, despite their beneficial aspects, these practice sessions are optional.

Practicing extra hard to excel, the students also received study guides to prepare for the competitions. These packets are from the United States

Purdue, continued on 2a

SPIRITED AWAY

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Schoolwide morale back with a passion

BY PRIYA PARIKH
WRITER

On Friday, Feb. 21, the school's gym was filled with students, teachers and faculty, all decked out in blue, for a spirit-filled pep session. The students, motivated and excited because of the myriad of activities that were included, were shouting and yelling in support of their peers. Essentially, the main purpose of the pep session was to get fans excited about the boys' basketball game against Snider, which also took place on that Friday. The student section at the game was filled to capacity, and it was one of the most crowded games in recent history. The school's spirit has appeared with a passion, especially after the pep session.

Pep Rally, continued on 2a

Above: Energetic senior Collin McCracken introduces "The Rollercoaster" to the student section during a Student Government-organized pep rally on Friday, Feb. 20. Later that night, an estimated 280 students watched as Homestead bowed to Snider to lower their season record to 12-7.

BRIEFS

SENIOR WINS IPFW COMPETITION
German foreign exchange student Jan Foerster (12) managed to engineer his way to victory — and a $300 prize — at IPFW's 18th Annual High School Bridge Building Contest. The objective of the competition was to use a maximum of 200 wooden Popsicle sticks to construct a bridge with the lightest possible weight that could support a given force and span 24 inches. Foerster's winning structure took 10 hours to complete over the course of the two-day time allowance.

ART STUDENT TAKES TOP HONOR
Cassie Kuczmanski (12) won first place and a $150 reward for her batik titled "Circle of Friends" at the Huntington University High School Student Art Show. The

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

22"-by-22" painting took four weeks to complete, and depicts an intricate flower design.

SENIOR YEARBOOK PHOTOS
Friday, March 27, the day before Spring Break, is the last day for seniors to have their pictures taken for publication in the yearbook. To schedule an appointment with Prestige Portraits, call (260) 490-1600. In addition, seniors' lists of high school activities are due Friday, March 27. Forms are available in the front office and Student Services, but students may also e-mail their document to hhspublications@sacs.k12.in.us.

BOYS' BASKETBALL SECTIONALS
The boys' varsity basketball team will start their sectional play against Southside on Tuesday, March 3. The boys beat the Archers 77-63 earlier this season. If the team wins again, they will play Huntington North who they previously lost to why one basket. The Spartans will be entering sectionals with a 12-8 regular season record (5-2 in conference play).

BOYS STATE SWIM & DIVE MEET
The preliminary swims of the state meet will be tonight at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis starting at 6 p.m. The championship and consolation finals will be tomorrow starting at 1 p.m. Admission costs $8 per session or $12 for both days. The Saturday finals can be watched on a live webcast on www.ihsaasports.org beginning at 1 p.m.

CINDERELLA DRESS DAY
Girls who are willing to donate gently used prom dresses for Cinderella Dress Day are encouraged to drop off their dresses in Mrs. Moss' student government room or at any Peerless Cleaners through the month of February.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Academic Decathalon Results
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Obama's First 100 Days, Ed Board, Executive Salary Caps
PAGE 4A, Opinion: Letters to the Editor, Global Warming Impact, Left and Write
PAGE 5A, Life: Just Because Week, German Club
PAGE 6A, Life: For the Nguyen, Fort Wayne Concert Season, Building Sturdy Foundations in Life
PAGE 7A, Sports: Ping Pong Toumey, Preview: Hockey State Tournament
PAGE 8A, Feature: Sister Act

IT TAKES TWO

The minute she stepped off of the podium, she knew what she wanted. She wanted to win the 100 yard Butterfly. As a junior, McKenzie Bagan's (12) time of 56.20 seconds earned her a red runner-up medal and a spot on the second place podium. 371 days later at her last high school state meet, she was the only one standing on the first place podium. She had finally won.

Girls' Swim and Dive State, continued on 8a

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

24-hour event to raise athletic funds

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

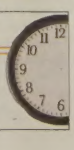
Dancing to the point of exhaustion and staying awake for 24 hours at a time may not sound like fun for some, but for those who attend the annual Dance Marathon, it is a tradition. Tonight, the dance will begin in the main gym from 8 p.m. until tomorrow, Feb. 28, at 8 p.m.

While Dance Marathon is primarily a fundraiser for the school's Athletic Boosters, for students it is an excuse to get together with friends and do something very out of the ordinary, staying up and dancing for 24 straight hours.

Marathon, continued on 2a

IF YOU GO

Dance Marathon will be held from 8 p.m. tonight until 8 p.m. tomorrow night in the main gym.



Report: State AP scores up 0.5%

BY PATRICK SVITEK AND DAN VANDEVEER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND WRITER

The College Board released its Fifth Annual AP Report to the Nation on Feb. 4, detailing state progress on the college-level exams offered every spring. According to the document, 10 percent of Indiana students scored a 3 or higher on AP exams in 2008, a 0.5 percent increase over the same statistic registered one year earlier.

Indiana still hovered below the national average of 15.2 percent of students meeting or exceeding the benchmark score, despite a consistent 2.5 percent spike over the course of five years.

"I think what's hard for AP teachers is that they are starting to see more and more students taking AP courses that have never taken an AP course before," Amy Hamilton, guidance counselor, said, "so we've really got to learn

AP Report, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Reviewing the effect of consumer taxation on the market, Michael Cervoni (12) participates in an AP Economics activity last semester.

PEP RALLY CONTINUED FROM 1A

"It raised school spirit with positive interaction from the kids, and I think that even carried over to the parents that came to the game," Joe Updegrove, assistant principal, said. "I would be willing to bet that some of the students' parents came to the game that normally wouldn't have gone. There is definitely more school spirit this year than last year, and I think that comes from the number of strong leaders in each grade level."

"There were just a lot of people out there supporting us at the pep rally, so it encouraged us for the game," Mike Bradley (12), co-captain of the boys' varsity basketball team, said. "Whenever we scored in the game, everyone in the crowd started shouting, so the student section helped."

One of the main reasons for the boost in school spirit at the game was the pep session, where students were encouraged to support their peers by appreciating the winter sports.

"It is an opportunity to encourage everyone to go to our games and support our teams," Nicole Szoko (12), Student Government member and head of the pep session committee, said. "It is the one time that literally everyone, including students, teachers, the administration and others, gathers to support our school. With sessions like these, there is a stress free environment where everyone can laugh, have fun and make fools of themselves."

"I personally love pep sessions because it is probably the only time at school when I'm not worrying or stressing over what is due or what I'm being tested over. I also like to see what activities there are, and now I'm going to be looking at them from a different perspective because I'm going to get to be a part of the process," Miya Farber (9), also a Student Government member and a new addition to the pep session committee, said.

While this pep session mainly roused school spirit and built up confidence for the sports teams, similar to previous pep sessions, there were also various unique activities and special features that were included.

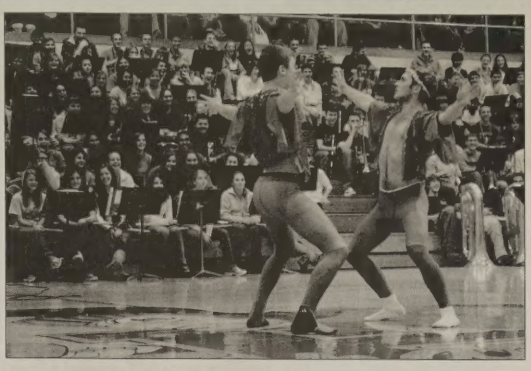
"At this pep session we played 'Finish That Song,' which I thought was fun," Halle Shine (9), Student Government member, said. "Also, we had a sumo wrestling contest between Mr. McNeal and Mr. Mitchell."

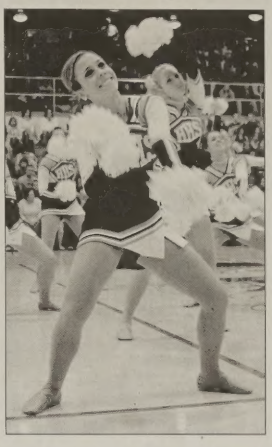
Also featured was an all-star basketball game between select students and teachers, in which the teachers finished as the champions. In addition, candy and the previous year's EarthFest shirts were thrown into the stands in appreciation of the students in attendance.

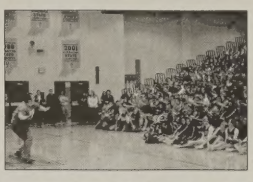
The increased amount of spirit at the school was obvious at the pep session and the big rivalry game on Friday night.

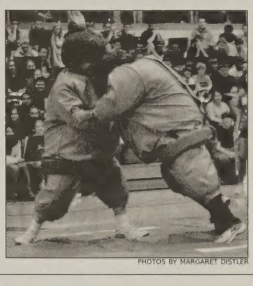
"Students look forward to pep sessions because it is a fun and social event during school hours that does not include taking notes or being tempted to focus on how many more minutes are left for school," Farber said. "I think that the students who are not even on sports teams are still having a fun time, and I'm sure you can look over at the administrators and even see them slip a smile in every once in a while."

"The school spirit was increased by encouraging the students to be loud and actually participate," Szoko said. "Anyone who went to the game last Friday could have seen the increase in school spirit. The student section was completely full up to the top of the bleachers. It is so exciting that everyone was there to support the team, and honor our seniors and the memory of Rodney. I am hoping this school spirit carries on throughout the rest of the school year."









Clockwise: Derek Kinzer (12) and Mac Finley (12) present their interpretative dance as students try to control their laughter. Collin McCracken (12) mobilizes the student section in preparation for the basketball game. Business teachers Brian McNeal and Kent Mitchell don fat suits during a sumo wrestling match. Amanda Bird (12) performs alongside fellow dancers during the Friday afternoon pep session.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

SECTIONAL CHAMPS 2009

The boys' swim and dive team won the sectional meet this past weekend by scoring a total of 376 points. This is the team's 15th consecutive sectional title.

AP REPORT CONTINUED FROM 1A

how to diversify our teaching techniques so that we can bring those kids along so that they get the scores they need."

Hamilton estimates that Homestead's AP program has grown by 58 percent since 2003, a surge in participation that has caused overall scores to "dip a little bit." Student attitude toward the comprehensive exams, argues AP U.S. History student Solomon Lin (10), also plays a major role in score success.

"A lot of kids didn't review last year before the test, and they blew it off," Lin said. "So if we could get more students to not blow it off, [it] would make them do a lot better."

Preparation during the final weeks before the test is essential, according to Hamilton. Beyond the generic advice — sleeping well the night before and consuming a healthy breakfast — she believes pupils must take the initiative if they wish to improve.

"[They should] take advantage of student help sessions, number one," Hamilton said. "Also, they should work with teachers throughout the year to improve their writing. They should also read what they need to, and, of course, be as prepared on the day of the test as possible."

High schools and their respective AP instructors, however, are not the only ones aiming to boost their students' marks. Established in 2007 to ensure the credibility of classes, the AP Course Audit program confirms that students are learning the "right stuff," according to Hamilton. After only two audits into the stratagem, students are beginning to recognize the short-terms effects.

"People are more aware now of what's on the AP test," Lin said, "or at least the teachers are, so they can teach better."

While 70 percent of Homestead test-takers earned a 3 or higher in 2008, Hamilton asserts that students scoring 4's and 5's are more likely to pocket college credit upon admission. Regardless, she is gratified with the 17 AP courses provided by Homestead in the same year.

"I think we do an excellent job," she said. "Our teachers are wonderfully prepared, and very professional, and they really take it serious to make sure that kids are prepared as best as they can."

This spring, the AP exam schedule begins with United States Government and Politics on Monday, May 4 at 8 a.m. and concludes with Latin: Vergil on Friday, May 15 at noon.

"I think we do an excellent job. Our teachers are wonderfully prepared, and very professional, and they really take it serious to make sure that kids are prepared as best as they can."

AMY HAMILTON
Guidance Counselor

PURDUE CONTINUED FROM 1A

Academic Decathlon (USAD), and as in school, the students are expected to study on their own time.

"These students are very dedicated, trustworthy, very responsible, love to excel and perform well," Baker, team sponsor and history teacher, said.

Although they are considered a team, Decathlon members compete individually. Their individual scores are then added together to form a cumulative, team score. Therefore, members of the team must rely on one another to make sure everyone is studying their material, because every individual's score contributes to the overall team score, and thus helps determine their placement in the competition. Not only do these students learn how to study for competitions, but also they also improve many of their other educational skills while doing so.

"Decathlon offers a way for students to enhance their academic abilities," Quinn Brenneke (11) said. "It teaches confidence and responsibility, and on top of it all, it is a ton of fun."

Although studying for the competitions is time-consuming, Decathlon members feel that the positive experiences and lessons learned outweigh the complications.

"I love decathlon, and I'm really grateful that I was asked to join the team," Kate Lessing (12) said. "Preparing for competitions has certainly taught me better ways to manage my time, since I have had to compete in decathlon while working, competing in DECA and still being expected to do well in school. It offered me a great boost in my college application process and allowed me to be confident in my test taking abilities."

ACADEMIC DECATHLON STATE RESULTS

1. Martinsville High School
Martinsville, Ind.

2. Crown Point High School
Crown Point, Ind.

3. Lowell High School
Lowell, Ind.

4. Homestead High School
Fort Wayne, Ind.

5. Pike High School
Indianapolis, Ind.

MARATHON CONTINUED FROM 1A

This year, students who participate in Dance Marathon must choose a partner and, between the two of them, raise $350.

Although the primary activity at Dance Marathon is obviously dancing, the day includes plenty games, food, partner activities and a midnight dodge ball tournament. Awards and prizes for winning certain games and competitions are also given.

Overall, the event is 24 hours long and students are given approximately four hours of sleep to keep them energetic throughout the event. Because not everyone wants to do Dance Marathon for 24 hours, students can receive admittance to the Friday night portion of the event for five dollars.

"Raising the money was really hard at first, but at the last minute, we scrambled and got the money. I had to go door to door and ask people, which was pretty difficult."

KATIE WIGHT (10)
Dance Marathon Participant

One of the most exciting and unusual activities offered through the school year, Dance Marathon is a long-standing tradition. Many students who participate come back again the following year.

"It was very fun and very tiring," Jessie Hanselmann (10) said. "I'm doing [Dance Marathon] again because it's pretty much the most fun thing that Homestead has to offer, and who doesn't like to dance?"

Along with those who have attended in previous years, a host of excited new students are ready to experience the weekend-long event.

"Everybody says [Dance Marathon] is really fun, but you get really tired," Chelsey Thomas (9) said. "I'm really excited."

After weeks of fundraising, anticipation about the dance continues to build.

"It's my first year doing it," Katie Wight (10) said. "I thought it'd be fun and it'd be a good way to support the athletic boosters because my partner, Meaghan Horner (10), and I are both cheerleaders. I'm looking forward to all the food and games."

While continuing to dance on such little sleep may seem like a daunting task in itself, another difficult part of Dance Marathon is actually raising the money to enter the event. Students are expected to raise $350 per team to enter, and an additional $50 for each member of a dodge ball team.

"Raising the money was really hard at first, but at the last minute we scrambled and got the money," Wight said. "I had to go door to door and ask people, which was pretty difficult."

Despite the Dance Marathon's exciting activities, its fundraising has deterred many students from participating, and the lack of donations is not surprising with the current economic situation.

However, students can enter a dodge ball team to play during the Friday night tournament without participating in the 24 hour part of the Dance Marathon.

"We didn't raise enough money between my partner and me," Jay Curry (11) said. "I think it was hard because compared to the other years, they didn't give us enough time to raise the money. That's disappointing because some people get people [to donate] before you do. But at least I'm still doing the dodge ball."

The Midnight Madness tournament, despite its name, will begin at 9 p.m., when students will start off by playing a team of coaches.

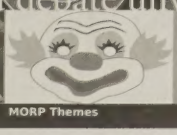
OPINION

Ed board: 'CarnEvil' idea inadequate, heated debate unwarranted, 3a

page 3a
issue 11 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Salary Cap

First 100 Days


MORP Themes

Friday, February 27, 2009

Ed board: Nothing is as it themes with MORP

We tend to overreact a little bit.

When a rerun of The Office airs in place of an expected episode premiere, we flood Facebook with a ferocious stream of irritated status updates. When we dance the lunch-period three-step during a delayed schedule, even the most socially secure students search frantically for a table where they are comfortable. And when student government selected "CarnEvil," an unholy marriage of two even unholier concepts, as the 2009 MORP theme, there was bound to be dissent.

As the student government representatives crept out of their usual fifth period meeting, a gloomy haze settled above their heads — which were apparently buried on top of their desks during the private vote only minutes earlier. In the coming days, their decision resonated through the hallways like a risque camera-phone sensation. Lockerside chats echoed with outrage over the pick.

Not only is the carnival-Friday the 13th hybrid virtually purposeless in implementation, it is also contradictory to the dance's laid back atmosphere. Attributing a "CarnEvil" theme to MORP is akin to wearing a tuxedo to Applebee's. At the core of this analogy, however, lies the real question: What are your reasons for dining at Applebee's to begin with? Just as the casual neighborhood grill is no place for dress code overextension, the MORP theme is no subject worth heated debate. MORP isn't the most important event you will experience in your life; as far as school dances go, it's not even at the top of the heap. It's only supposed to be an event where you can get together with your friends and relax.

Remember the vicious battle of proposed Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Sock Hop and NASCAR themes for MORP last year? The disputes that led to a deep partisan divide among, well, TMNT, Sock Hop and NASCAR fans? Neither do we. The MORP theme has about as little of an effect on students' lives as the outcome of an overly contested gym volleyball match.

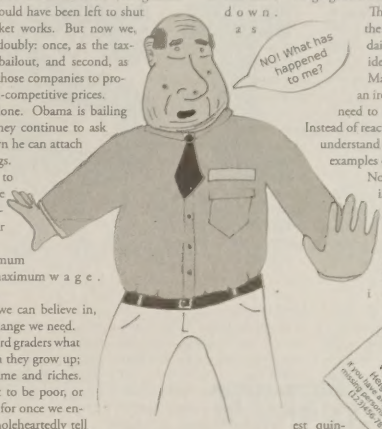
On Friday, March 13, there will be only one theme worth remembering: flexibility.

All in a Day's Work

Salary caps a product of class warfare, inconsistent with nation's capitalist ideals

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

I love the salary cap idea. In fact I don't think they took it far enough. For the CEOs of the bankrupting businesses, their salaries should be $0; those firms should have found different management to run more efficiently or they should have been left to shut down. That's how our market works. But now we, citizens, are paying doubly: once, as the taxpayers funding the bailout, and second, as consumers allowing those companies to produce products at non-competitive prices.



But the deed is done. Obama is bailing out the industries, they continue to ask for more and in return he can attach his government strings.

When did we get to the point that we were okay with the government determining our income?

First, a minimum wage. Now, a maximum wage. Next, an equal wage.

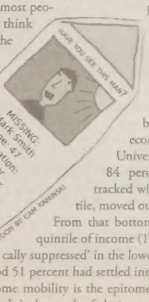
That's a change we can believe in, but certainly not a change we need.

Ask any class of third graders what they want to be when they grow up; it usually involves fame and riches. Their dreams are not to be poor, or even mediocre. And for once we encourage that! We wholeheartedly tell them they can be anything they want to be. We want them to dream of being the President of the United States, of being a famous celebrity, anything their heart desires. Just not to make an honest million. Gone are the days of making a seven figure salary. But let us not forget our salary has never been wholly ours, at least not since the era of big government and bigger taxes. That $500,000 translates to approximately $290,000 after taxes, an amount which Obama has promised to decrease by 2010.

If this absurd salary cap doesn't tell you there's a new kind of discrimination in town, then maybe that ridiculously high percentage of income tax will. If not, try this: think of any cartoon you have ever seen of a banker or an executive. Rarely to never are these figures depicted as poised, hard-working, capable entrepreneurs. Society instead imagines the rich as they are caricatured: fat, ugly, and mean, imprinting a natural disgust for these bulging billionaires into the minds of economic inferiors everywhere.

The disdain for financial success permeates more than just the world of art and its loyal aesthetes. In fact, that disdain is just one of many tactics used in an age-old war, first identified by Barack Obama's top deceased advisor, Karl Marx. Class warfare is a far more consequential war with an ironically high correlation of liberal peacenik warriors. We need to embrace class envy; it is exactly what drives our society. Instead of reacting to the absurdly rich with a disgust of their opulence, understand that, under a free market and just government, they are examples of what you can become.

Now some will argue that that is a bit idealistic; the system is fixed, the Dream shattered. At which point, I must correct another dangerous stereotype. Who are the rich? When most people think of the rich, they think of the privileged few, the old money who have never worked a day in their lives or endured a single hardship. In fact, a study by Glen Hubbard, an economist at Columbia University, showed that 84 percent of the subjects tracked who started in the lowest quintile, moved out of their class within 10 years. From that bottom quintile, more had moved to the top quintile of income (14.4 percent) than had stayed 'economically suppressed' in the lowest income class (14.2 percent), meaning a good 51 percent had settled into the middle class.



Self-determined income mobility is the epitome of every great thing about the United States. It is the result of choice and possible only under liberty. But Obama has taken your future into his hands. At what point will you take it back?

39 days and counting...

OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS

JAN. 20: Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States.

JAN. 22: President Obama issues an executive order to close the Guantanamo military commission and detention facility within a year.

FEB. 4: Obama signs a bill on the State Children's Health Insurance Program's (SCHIP) plan to expand its government coverage for children's health care for an additional 4 million people.

FEB. 13: The House of Representatives and the Senate pass the final Economic Stimulus Package with only three Republican votes in order to meet Obama's demands.

FEB. 16: Obama signs the largest spending project in American history, the $789B American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

PHOTO ARMSCONTROLCENTER.ORG

PHOTO PERSONAL.PSU.EDU

FEB. 20: Obama reveals a $75B home foreclosure plan.

FEB. 22: Administration officials reveal that Obama will let the Bush Tax Cuts expire at the end of 2010, raising taxes by 4% for those earning over 250,000, to cover some of the costs of recent spending projects.

FEB. 24: In his Address to Congress, Obama discloses plans to start nationalizing health care and banking the next week.

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt became the 32nd President of the United States. In his first 100 days in office, he signed 15 major pieces of legislation, the most radical executive change to U.S. policy in our history. Already, Obama stands to rival Roosevelt's aggressive first 100 days.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
JOE HANAUER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE editor

Two students respond to recent sexual health article

One-third of teenage girls will become pregnant before age 20. This was a fact listed in the Spartana's February 4th article, "Chasing the Birds and the Bees." 1 in 3. That's a scary fact. Speaking as a 16-year-old girl with a little more than 3 years until that deadline, I have every right to be disturbed.

But how do that many teenage girls become pregnant? I mean, in middle school we were taught the word ABSTINENCE. We learned that our lives would be ruined if the word wasn't plastered in front of our eyes until we said "I do." If so many people said "OK. I pledge that I won't have sex until I'm married," then how are so many teenage girls getting pregnant?

Abstinence-only programs, such as TLC, only hurt teenagers. It's not sex education. It's "no sex" education. The little "ATM" (Abstinence 'Til Marriage) pledge cards we were given might seem to seal the deal, but reality is quite different. According to a Columbia University study, 88% of pledgers have sex before marriage. And, when they do have sex, they are one-third less likely than non-pledgers to use protection. Those who signed abstinence pledges are also less likely to seek STD testing and diagnosis. Meaning? A higher unintended pregnancy rate and more teens and adults with STDs.

Abstinence should be an emphasis of any sex-ed class. However, a true sex-ed course should also be comprehensive, including contraception education. There seems to be a misconception in the United States that comprehensive sex education promotes promiscuous behavior. This assertion is completely wrong.

Comprehensive sex education has consistently shown to actually delay sexual interaction. Because teens emerging from these programs have more knowledge about sex, they are able to make more rational decisions. If they do decide to engage in sexual activity, they are far more likely to use protection and use it properly. That means fewer unwanted pregnancies and STDs, which is something everybody can agree is a good thing.

This clearly shouts that the abstinence-only form of sex education we are receiving doesn't work. I hate to compare cars to sex, but I'm going to any way. Abstinence-only "sex education" is like telling students in Driver's Ed that since people have gotten into car crashes in the past, they shouldn't drive. At the same time, seatbelts aren't mentioned. Seems stupid, right? How is that different than sex education? Students should be given a well-rounded, fully comprehensive sex education so they can make the best decisions for themselves. It's not just one group who thinks this way, either. People on all sides of ideological lines agree. In an interview with Fox News on February 16, 2009, new teen mother Bristol Palin, daughter of former Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin was asked about contraception use. Her response? "Abstinence is the main thing but it's just not realistic." SACS needs to "get real" and offer a comprehensive sex-ed curriculum. Period.

A final note to the writer: Patrick Svitek, the way you wrote this article was clearly biased. In beginning the article, by condemning Planned Parenthood, mentioning abortion and continuing the article to suggest that "secondary schools are not ready for a change in the modus operandi", you clearly have overstepped your place as news reporter. Keep the opinions on the opinion page.

Becky Katz (11)

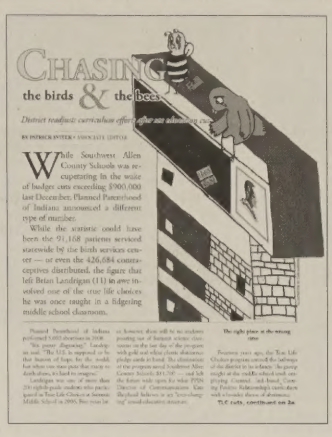
No bias, no bull — it's the standard that news writers should at least attempt to adhere to — and they should at least try to focus on the actual topic at hand.

Yet when an article concerning a cut budget program is initiated with a blatantly biased rant against abortion, I can't help but feel disappointed and more than a little disgusted. Reading on, I'm left with the strong impression that Svitek believes abortions and teen pregnancies would have been avoided if abstinence-based programs had been present.

Sorry to break it to you, folks, but it takes more than a little TLC to overcome libido. It takes self-control, something that many teenagers don't have whether they have an ATM card or not.

Considering that 66.4% of 12th graders have had sex (according to the American Academy of Pediatrics), contraceptives do need to be taught along with abstinence. In fact, abstinence programs often promote a negative view of condoms and birth control. I can remember a TLC instructor informing my class that condoms don't work 25% of the time, so we shouldn't even bother with them. These misconceptions take their toll; a recent study by the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found approximately a ten percent difference in contraceptive use between teens who pledged abstinence and non-pledgers.

I understand that abortion is a contentious issue, and significant to many people due to their religious and/or conservative upbringing. You have a right to your opinion. But it belongs in the, well… opinion section. While Svitek throws in a smidgen of the alternative view, most of his article dramatizes one teen pregnancy and blames it on the lack of an abstinence-program.


CHASING the birds & the bees

In Issue 9, *The Spartana* published a news article by Patrick Svitek titled "Chasing the Birds and the Bees," detailing the recent TLC cuts and the effects of abstinence-only sexual education programs in schools.

Your description of Get Real, Indiana! was exceptionally funny: "Although abstinence is an acceptable practice…" A very goofy, opinionated choice of an adjective. I enjoyed the laugh, but the disdain was clearly evident.

Another clearly biased segment: "Although only one-sixth of TLC's operating costs were paid for with school funds, the program's board of directors had already decided its fate." Please try to avoid evaluative terms in news writing.

Once you trash the bias, your article should become more economical. For example- this program is being cut, this is why it is being cut, this is what it was, this is what might replace it, and possibly some contrasting opinions from student quotes. That would be a newsworthy, appropriate structure.

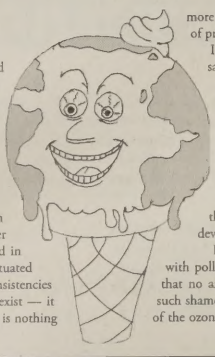
Keep the rest in editorials. Hey, abstinence may be pretty noble and the only surefire way to avoid STDs and babies, but reality itself isn't a pretty thing. Wait as long as you can, but be safe when you don't.

Celia Grundman (11)

Global warming merely natural change

With recent controversy surrounding climate change, debate continues

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER



Global warming has been perceived as symptomatic of many events — the 2012 apocalypse prophecy and human negligence seem to top the current scale. While man's careless treatment of the environment carries consequences, global warming does not foreshadow an imminent future of humankind being smote from the face of the earth.

Global warming does not stem from years of reckless human error, but rather a climate shift akin to those experienced in past ice ages. Global temperature has fluctuated since Earth's formation, and similar inconsistencies will continue until the Earth ceases to exist — it is simply natural order. Global warming is nothing more than an environmental climate shift blown out of proportion by alarmist media.

In an alternate theory, research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has calculated that Earth's magnetic poles are due to reverse. Records indicate that the last reversal occurred 800 million years ago, and the transfer was accompanied by climate shifts so violently erratic that any human life would have been exterminated, had it existed. At the risk of lending truth to the maniacal community of 2012 doomsayers, it would be fitting to assert that the earth is gravitating in the direction of a devastating upheaval or another ice age.

Humans have obliviously annihilated the planet with pollution, greenhouse gases and blind inattention that no amount of "green" initiatives can erase. While such shameful behavior does raise alarm for the thinning of the ozone layer, it does not predict a forthcoming end. Perhaps if the alarmist sensibilities of the government and media could be eliminated, citizens would come to understand that global warming is merely a natural process. In place of frantic preparation and dread, initiatives should be promoted in order to amend human negligence.

Barack Obama intends to shift from diminishing oil resources to investing in renewable energy, and in doing so, he will protect the environment and ensure stability. His proposal to reallocate the production of gas-powered vehicles to hybrid cars will not only save money, but help establish the United States as a nation free of dependence on foreign oil. While automobile emissions will no longer harm the environment, the absence of oil-driven conflict will work to restore peace among quarreling countries.

Humans can no longer treat the environment like a convenient plaything, but neither shall we fear global warming. The fact remains that this climate shift is merely a natural component of the planet's evolution, and it will continue for millennia to come.

CARTOON BY PATRICK SVITEK

LEFT AND WRITE | Universal Healthcare: Humane or Ignorant?

Affordable healthcare for everyone

BY CLARK TREXLER
GUEST WRITER

Most people push the idea of universal healthcare aside and mutter "socialism" without giving it a second thought. However, perhaps a second look at the policy is warranted. Even the most cold-hearted person can find a moral reason for universal health care, and thus, let us skip over the morals and directly to the topic about which we are all personally worried about — our pocketbooks.

Systems such as Medicare and SSDI are currently sucking in more money than they were designed to take in. Health care providers are forced to write off what their uninsured patients are unable to pay for — leaving a system that does not save anyone money.

Economically, our current health care system hampers American businesses. Insurance premiums, which are increasing even faster than inflation, directly cut into company profits, worker bonuses, 401ks and expansion. Plus, producers must add the costs of care to each product they make — hurting them in an ever increasingly global market in which their competitors do not supply health care.

Our government is not going to be making us any money either way, so why should we hinder the private sector's ability to do so? Yes, there would be an increase in taxes to support this new system, but the overall gains by the market should be more than enough to compensate for the slight increase on taxes.

This isn't to say law makers should blunder their way into a new system without thinking; every step in the change should be taken slowly and with moderation. Still, shifting the health care burden from the private sector to the public sector of the economy frees up businesses to perform capitalism the way it should be performed, allowing businesses and workers to function better, without the dark, foreboding shadow of health care looming over them.

Cure will infect healthcare service

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Universal health care uses the human fear of illness in order to mask the same pitfalls of a socialist government. Many have labeled this system as free health care for citizens of a nation; however, its price tag exceeds the cost of the current mixed system. The profit motive may not be as righteous as the leftist claims to improve the health of a nation, but it has certainly proven more efficient and effective. With a century of examples, it is safe to predict that much of the taxes paid toward a socialized health care system would be lost to the bureaucratic inefficiency of government. Taxpayers will be paying millions of dollars to benefit chain smokers with lung cancer and obese patients with heart problems and diabetes.

It is true that more money is spent on health care for each individual in the United States compared to any other country in the world for less effective treatments; however, more than 50 percent of this difference comes from our large gross domestic product, which exceeds every other nation by several hundred percent. We cannot allow the current inefficiency in our health system, mostly due to debt producing Medicare and Medicaid systems in order to adopt an even more inefficient bankrupted system that leftists propose as a solution. Even the National Health Service in Britain, the oldest universal health care system, has started to collapse causing all-time high deficits: 1.07 billion pounds. Socialized health care will cause the standard of healthcare to fall, medical development to falter and record surges in lawsuits. It will provide the perfect excuse for government to further exceed its boundaries by regulating smoking and obesity to control the new costs, an irreversible step to expand government. As people decide that healthcare is "a right," the idea will become equivalent to Social Security — an everlasting, indebting and failing system.

The Issue: Universal healthcare is when government provides a national healthcare program. In his address to Congress on Feb. 24, Obama emphasized his desire to consolidate healthcare into an integrated national network. His declared long-term goal is to push towards universal healthcare.

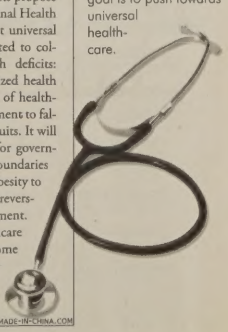


PHOTO MADE-IN-CHINA.COM

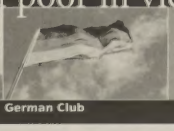
THE IRIS

nguyen sisters create got rice mission to aid poor in vietnam, 6a

page 5a
issue 11 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Local Bands

Dirty Duckers Dodgeball


German Club

Friday, February 27, 2009

Why does Student Government plan a week every year where students are encouraged to attend a dodgeball tournament, a talent show, an all-school dance and a fundraiser?

just because

BY AREZOO NAZARI
WRITER

Why dedicate a day to the whole school going to Moe's Southwest Grill? Why compete in a Dirty Duckers dodgeball tournament? Why come to see a variety show, and why go dance the night away at MORP? Well, the reason is just because.

This year's Just Because Week is filled with school activities that are planned to boost school spirit. The events have been planned by Student Government, which has set the dates and confirmed the locations.

The week will be started off on Monday, March 9, when the school will hold a fundraiser at Moe's, which will give a portion of the proceeds to Homestead. The only requirement of students is to bring their student I.D. cards, wallets, and large appetites.

"We thought that having a place for all the students to get together would be a great way to start off Just Because Week. It is also a way to get excited for what will come later throughout the week," Emily Mungovan (11), Student Government Executive Board Secretary and fundraising coordinator, said. "Plus, this way we can give back to the school with the money we have made."

The Dirty Duckers dodgeball tournament also rouses the excitement of junior and senior girls every year. Each team consists of six girls from the same grade level, who choose two coaches. They will all duck, dodge, dip, dive and dodge, but in the end only one team will prevail. This year, the turnout has been successful with eleven junior teams and twelve senior teams signing up to compete. The brackets will be divided by grade level, and the champion from each bracket will battle it out for the title of overall champion.

"Surprisingly, a lot of teams signed up," Carolyn Mutton (11), Student Government Executive Board Public Relations Officer and Dirty Duckers coordinator said. "We had been collecting money and forms for a week and a half, and we got no teams [to sign up] until the very last day. I am really excited by how this will turn out. It should be an exciting tournament, even if you don't participate, to just come and watch."

Switching from competitive thrills to entertainment, this year's Variety Show will be held on Thursday, March 12 in the auditorium. Students from all grade levels will perform their talent in front of an audience, with head emcees Derek Kinzer (12) and Collin McCracken (12) running the show. Tickets will be sold ahead of time in the cafeteria for $5 and will be $7 at the door.

"There are a lot of talented kids here at Homestead and it is always fun to see them showcase it. This year has a lot of talent [that will be] full of excitement. I can't wait for the show," Kinzer said.

To wrap up the week, the girls will get their turn and will finally be able to ask a guy to a dance. MORP will be held at Hilger's Farm Market on the Friday of Just Because Week, with this year's theme being "CarnEvil." A lot of controversy has risen as a result of this year's theme because it will put a twist on carnival decorations with a little unluckiness, or "evil," incorporated into the dance. However, the freshmen dance coordinators remain optimistic.

> "I am convinced that this year's MORP will be super duper. The theme is wacked out, the shirts are unbelievable, and all the activities seem too good to be true. MORP will definitely be a highlight of this year."
>
> **HALLE SHINE (9)**
> Student Government Representative

"I am convinced that this year's MORP will be super duper," Halle Shine (9), Student Government Representative and dance coordinator said. "The theme is wacked out, the shirts are unbelievable, and all the activities seem too good to be true. MORP will definitely be a highlight of this year."

Good food, competitive excitement, student entertainment, and a dance to end the week are all part of Student Government plans to raise students' spirits. So grab those tacos, line up those dodgeballs, get ready for the show and prepare to dance because a week of exciting events has been prepared not because it had to be done, but just because.

MONDAY THE 9TH

Meet Me at Moe's
For a study break, plan to meet your friends for dinner at Moe's Southwest Grill off of Jefferson Blvd. from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bring your student I.D. and Moe's will donate $1 to Homestead.

TUESDAY THE 10TH

Student Government is currently in the process of choosing themed spirit days for Just Because Week. There will be announcements made to inform the students of ways to participate.

WEDNESDAY THE 11TH

Dirty Duckers
Starting at 7 p.m., teams of junior and senior girls will battle in the annual dodgeball tournament. The games will take place in the main gym.

THURSDAY THE 12TH

Variety Show
Watch students show off their musical and creative talents starting at 6:45 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets will be sold at lunch for $5 or they can be purchased for $7 at the door.

FRIDAY THE 13TH

MORP
Grab your friends and a date and drive to the "CarnEvil" themed dance at Hilger's Farm Market from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. T-shirts will be sold during all lunch periods.

Club welcomes all students to experience German culture

BY BRAD ADAMSON
WRITER

The German Club is a place where everyone is welcome to learn about the German culture and have a great time. German Club meets every other Thursday after school in Room 612 from right after school to 3:30. Despite the name, German Club is not exclusively for German students. In fact, English is the most spoken language during each meeting.

Despite the fact that the club is called German Club, the dominant language that is spoken is English. However, the club members try to speak as much German as possible. Most of the members aren't afraid to state that they speak English more often than German. However, the members help each other when they have troubles speaking the German language correctly.

"Basically, we just sit around and listen to [German teacher Mr.] Jaeger tell stories about his trips to Germany," Emma Haverstock (11), founder of German Club, said. "Mostly everyone that comes here is very interested in German and we try to speak as much German as possible, but it's mostly broken. However, we try to help each other."

Everyone is encouraged to join German Club and have a great time, whether it be sitting back and talking to friends, listening to stories or even participating in some of the activities.

> "[Students] always think about World War II and Hitler when it was just one person that ruined [German culture and heritage] for all of us. I love seeing how many people still, in spite of that, want to speak German."
>
> **EMMA HAVERSTOCK (11)**
> Founder of German Club

While no events and projects have been scheduled for the near future, many events and projects have been planned in the past. The most recent project was the creation of hand-made valentines in German. Another event that happened recently was a movie night where members gathered in Room 612 and watched the German–language film *Seven Dwarves*.

Another great part about the club is that it gives students the opportunity to talk to Jan Foerester (12), an exchange student from Germany. Foerester tells stories about his life in Germany and talks in very fluent German, which is helpful for students who want to practice their German speaking skills.

The club was created in Nov. 2009, after the band and soccer season. It was founded at a time when most of the members would be able to attend the meetings. Haverstock founded German Club because she wanted a club in which students could learn about German heritage.

"My favorite part of the club is seeing everyone that is interested in German. German's not a popular language because people associate it with Nazi Germany," Haverstock said. "[Students] always think about World War II and Hitler when it was just one person that ruined [German culture and heritage] for all of us. I love seeing how many people still, in spite of that, want to speak German."

GERMAN CLUB

Who: All Students

Where: Mr. Jaeger's Room, 612

When: Every other Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Why: To experience German Culture

rock and roll all night

Local bands prove to be enjoyable entertainment

PHOTOS BY BETH HUBER

Members of local band The Ready Set perform at Fort Wayne Turners earlier this year.

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

There is no doubt that concert dates are excitedly circled on students' calendars when a big band plays in Fort Wayne. The most recent of these big concerts was the show in which the bands Buckcherry, Avenged Sevenfold, Saving Abel, and Papa Roach performed. Some enjoyed it, others not quite as much.

"The Avenged Sevenfold concert was not that great; I wish the sets were a bit longer," Jordan Bruce (11) said. "The biggest problem with concerts in Fort Wayne is that there aren't very many underage shows. It's like you have to be over 21 for everything good."

> "The biggest problem with concerts in Fort Wayne is that there aren't very many underage shows. It's like you have to be over 21 for everything good."
>
> **JORDAN BRUCE**
> Junior

Regardless, the anticipation was tangible during the days approaching the concert, possibly due to its location. Fort Wayne has two popular concert locations: the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Pierre's. Pierre's doubles as a bar and a music venue; as a result, the Coliseum is a friendlier place for concert-goers because usually people of all ages can attend its shows.

One large, upcoming show that will be held at the Coliseum is the "Rock 'n the Fort" show on March 14. "Rock 'n the Fort" is a showcase of local bands that offers no-name groups a chance to get their music out to the public. It is in these small bar and garage bands that the true potential of Fort Wayne-based music lays.

Social networking website MySpace alone features a stifling amount of Fort Wayne bands that occasionally play small shows downtown and in other counties. While a large number of local bands can be seen playing at high school talent shows, not all local band members are teenagers.

"My dad has been rocking for 26 years now, and he's still jumping around a stage singing with two kids, a wife and 45 years of age under his tightening belt," Trisha Krall (11) said.

Along the same lines, English teachers Howard Jankowski and Steve Clough have performed in several coffeehouse venues. Jankowski and Clough run Acoustic Club, which meets every other Tuesday and Thursday in Clough's room, Room 104, and have encouraged the growth of many bands at Homestead. Advocating a coffeehouse feel, the club invites any student, whether they play an instrument or not, to attend and enjoy the talent offered.

"The music around the Fort Wayne area is fantastic," Krall said. "I mean, yeah, we're not a big city that has new stuff pouring out of it, and occasionally a big group will come to the Coliseum, but that's about as big as it gets. I love the appreciation we have for smaller bands around here, though."

"I really wish that Fort Wayne had more frequent and eclectic shows, like Pitchfork [Music Festival] in Chicago. The local community needs to do more to bring esoteric and independent music to the public," Jankowski said.

Occasionally small bands will find success and tour outside of Indiana. Homestead itself was home to The Ready Set, Jordan Witzigreuter's ('08) one man band. Recently, The Ready Set has released an acoustic EP on iTunes and is touring all throughout the East Coast.

However, it can be expected that the Variety Show next month and Earthfest later on this spring will host a plethora of up-and-coming Fort Wayne musicians.

Having firm foundations crucial

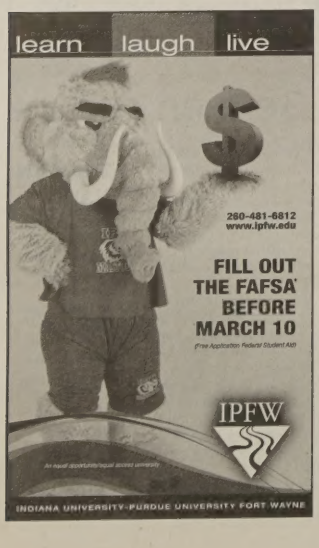
BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

I am a positive person. Most days I wake up in a good mood, excited for what lies ahead, whether it is something fun I have planned for the upcoming weekend or just a chance to hang out with my friends after school. However, like everyone else, I occasionally find my good spirits weighed down by the stress of schoolwork, trivial concerns or unexpected changes. During the bitter cold days before spring, it is easy to let small problems be blown out of proportion. On dreary days such as these, I am in need of a firm foundation — a place from which I can draw positive feelings even when I am at my wits' end.

As the architects of the yet to be completed Homewood Suites in Aboite township recently learned, a good foundation can be the difference between success and failure. Having sunk more than four inches into the ground, the multimillion-dollar hotel has been issued a "stop-work order" because it was built on topsoil that cannot support its weight. Hearing this story, I am reminded of several times when I have neglected to recognize the importance of my own foundations. Although my oversights may not be as economically devastating, my realization has given me a new revelation.

It is regrettable how easily life's unpredictable nature is forgotten when we feel like we know what we are doing. When I am content, I feel enthusiastic about everything, and it is contagious, but sometimes my good spirits obscure my values, allowing me to unconsciously overlook the people who have kept me from sinking under stressful situations. Perhaps that is the beauty of bad days — they provide time for us to issue a personal "stop-work order" and reflect upon our own vulnerability, recognizing the value of our foundations so we may restructure our lives with a more profound purpose.

I have come to realize that when I feel bad, I am prone to overlooking opportunities to do good. I am more likely to simply walk past the boy who drops his books in the hallway or remain quiet rather than talking to the new girl in class, and as a person who enjoys being positive, I find my reluctance even more disheartening. However, by focusing on the foundations that sustain me and drawing strength from their support, I am able to turn even the most difficult days into opportunities for growth, constructing character and helping others.



got rice mission

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER, PHOTO COURTESY OF JOANNA NGYUEN

Joanna Nguyen starts charity Got Rice Mission to help poor in Vietnam

Joanna Nguyen (10) is a student who is active in student government and Key Club. She also happens to be Vietnamese. She has been to Vietnam three times to visit her parents' family who still live in Vietnam. During her latest trip to Vietnam, Nguyen and her older sister Jessica Nguyen (11) began a charity called the Got Rice Mission to help poor people living in Vietnam. This service is very much needed by the poorer people of Vietnam, who do not receive any kind of government assistance. Joanna would also like to participate in the Got Rice Mission again.

Spartana: Why did you go to Vietnam?

Nguyen: We were visiting our family in Vietnam; my mom and dad [were born in] from Vietnam.

Spartana: Had you been to Vietnam before? How many times?

Nguyen: Yes, I went when I was in kindergarten and third grade.

Spartana: What is it like in Vietnam in regards to weather and culture?

Nguyen: It was definitely hot. It was definitely hot and humid because we went in the summer. The culture was different; I don't know how to describe it. It was much more loose there and not as strict as it is in America. [You could] kind of just go out [dressed in] casual clothing. [You] don't get dolled up.

Spartana: Where did you stay while you were there?

Nguyen: I stayed with my aunt in [a city in Vietnam called] My Tho.

Spartana: What kind of charity did you participate in while you were there?

Nguyen: My sister and I started this thing called the Got Rice Mission, where we raised money to buy a family rice and packets of instant noodles.

Spartana: What steps did you have to take to start the charity?

Nguyen: First, my sister and I thought of a plan and how much [money] we would have to raise. We called my aunt in Vietnam, and she figured out how much it would cost. We bought items in bulk and split them up so it would be cheaper. We made brochures and different businesses, Homestead's Student Government, Key Club and my mom's friends helped out. We made $850, which is a lot when converted to Vietnamese currency. We were able to help a lot of people in three different cities.

Spartana: How were you greeted when you arrived with your donations?

Nguyen: Well, we made these little coupon tickets that [the families] would have to obtain ahead of time so we would know who was really poor and who wasn't. We gave the coupons to a lot of local people and we gave them out at a Buddhist temple. We gave the vouchers to the monks in charge and they gave them to the people who really needed them. A lot of people came without the vouchers, and we made extras for them. It was really bad in the cities because a huge crowd came that was not expected and they were really grabby.

Spartana: Where did you go to give your donations?

Nguyen: We went to three cities: one in the countryside, one [inside] my aunt's city and the other place was a temple, which was like the outer-city.

Spartana: What did your family think of your donations?

Nguyen: They supported it. We got the idea after going to church when they were doing the yearly food collection, and we wanted to see what we could do to help out that summer. Our brother helped us out with the idea. We had done it before when we went in third grade but we had forgotten a lot of the details.

Spartana: What was your general impression of Vietnam?

Nguyen: It was nice; it was very peaceful, kind of care free. It was just a different experience, so it was exciting for me. It was cool to see where my mom and dad came from. It makes you appreciate what we have compared to them, because they didn't have running water, which is different from what we're used to.

Spartana: What is the largest difference between Vietnam and America?

Nguyen: I guess [the] different lifestyle. American lifestyle is much more livable than what they have. It's like America has a higher standard of living compared to what [Vietnam has].

Spartana: Was it a rewarding experience? Would you do it again?

Nguyen: Yes. It was really cool helping these people out because they need a lot of help. They don't have welfare and benefits from the government. Basically, the only people who help them are churches and other charities.

FAST FACTS ABOUT VIETNAM

Miles from United States: 8,429 miles

Agriculture products: Paddy rice, coffee, rubber, cotton, tea, pepper, soybeans

Natural hazards: Occasional typhoons (May to Jan.) with extensive flooding

Labor force: 47.41 million

Population: 86,116,560

Infant mortality rate: 15%

Children underweight: 25%

Government: Communist

SPORTS

students play ping pong after school for respect amongst others, 7a

page 7a
issue 11 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Girls Swimming

Ping Pong

Hockey

Friday, February 27, 2009

A new perspective: games from the end of the bench

One man has the best seat in the house for every boys' varsity basketball game. He notices all of the intricacies of the game, gets to sit on the floor, and even gets to wear a uniform. Wes Ring (11) has been in this seat all season, claiming his spot as the twelfth man of the varsity team, and he has taken advantage of all of the perks of viewing the game from the end of the bench.

Each game, Ring dons his uniform, runs out of the tunnel, and shouts in the huddle like every other player. Yet, as the tip-off goes up and the clock starts ticking, Ring sits in the spot that he enjoys for one reason in particular.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

"It is nice not having to pay to get into games," Ring said.

Not only does he get a free ticket to every game, but Ring also gets the chance to see things that other players and fans do not get to see throughout the course of a game.

"I look at mainly three things during the game: cheerleaders, girls in the crowd and defensive schemes," Ring said.

When he's not looking at cheerleaders or defensive schemes, Ring can often be heard freestyle rapping about players on other teams or whoever is on the bench with him at the time. However, when the time comes, Ring has to be ready to pull off his warm up and check into the game. There's no doubt that his presence on the court has a great affect on the team's performance.

"The results don't lie," Ring said. "Whenever I get playing time, the team is 4-1. I'm no math junkie, but that's a .800 winning percentage. It's obvious that I have a definite impact on the outcome of games."

Ring's mind set on the court is similar to his mind set on the bench. Yes, he analyzes defensive schemes during his minutes of play, but he also plays for the attention of certain individuals.

"My main concern is making my presence felt by the female fans from the opposing school," Ring said. "I want them to think I am the best player on the court in those final 30 seconds."

Ring's style of play is often compared to Jason McElwain, an autistic basketball manager from New York who got a chance to play during his basketball team's senior night a few years back.

"Like J-Mac, every time I hit a shot this year, my teammates and most fans celebrated like we had won a championship. It feels good, but a T-Mac comparison would be nice, too," Ring said.

Ring is undoubtedly the favorite of the Rod Sillies cheering section during the games, as he leads every other varsity team member in the category of "chants that include his name," the most popular being the always dependable "We Want Wes!" chant. He hopes this enthusiasm and fan support could help him out sometime in the future.

"I've heard that colleges typically look for stats like 'chants that include a player's name' during the recruiting process, so I appreciate the support. I have to give a shout out to the Rod Sillies. Keep entertaining me during games and keep doing your thing," Ring said.

If the season ended today, however, Ring knows that he has learned many life lessons that he can take home with him at the end of the day.

"Coach Johnson has taught me so many things," Ring said. "He has taught me to 'play with fun,' how to correctly fist-pump after good plays and how to wear Bowling Green shirts for three consecutive practices."

By the numbers, he's last on the team in scoring, averaging .6 points per game. His attitude, however, may make him the most important player on the team. Like he said, he's no math junkie.

a new DIRECTION

Rivalries rise between upperclassmen ping pong teams, North, South divided

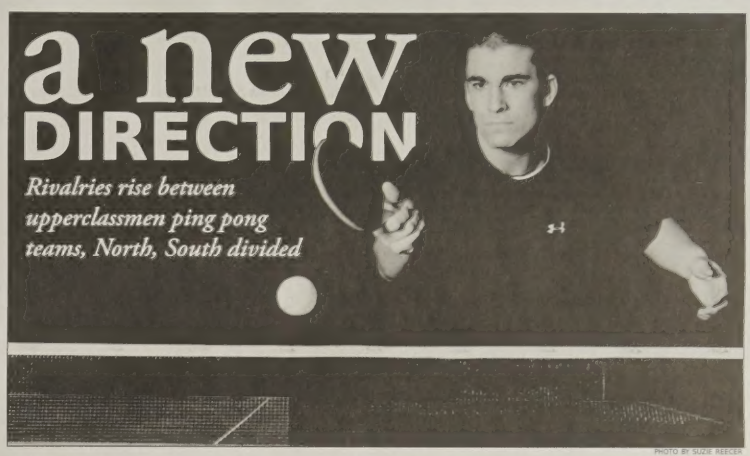


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

North and South. These directions are located on opposite sides of the compass, showing which way is up and which way is down. Yet, with the addition of a green surface, white lines and a net, the compass can turn into a ping pong table, and North and South can turn into rival ping pong teams. In the past few weeks, a ping pong league has been created which has created not only a rivalry, but a lifestyle.

It all started when Ryan Copley (12) received a ping pong table one day, prompting fellow classmates Jobe Thompson (12), Logan Laughlin (12) and Derek Deroo (12) to come over and use the table as much as possible. As a result of their love for the game, a ping pong league was created by Copley.

"We played every day, so we became the North Ping Pong League (NPPL) after some of our classmates decided to challenge us," Ryan Copley said.

The team is consisted of Copley, Thompson, Laughlin and Reid Braun (12), who replaced Deroo because he, according to members of the NPPL, "did not have the adequate skills to compete." Deroo ended up creating the Rooski Doos, an affiliate to the NPPL.

The group that challenged the NPPL is consisted of Derek Kinzer (12), Justin Hoffman (12), Luke Berghoff (12) and Grant Welter (12). They christened themselves the South Ping Pong League (SPPL).

"We heard that a small group of guys thought they were cool [because they were] playing ping pong every day after school, so we challenged them," Welter said. "Someone needed to give them competition, so we created the SPPL. We now play about three to four times a week."

Although most rivalries seem to be evenly balanced, the North has dominated the South thus far, winning all but one of the series that they have played. The NPPL even won an amazing nine out of ten matches on Feb. 16.

"Anytime we play [the SPPL], we win decisively. There is no question about it," Copley said. "The South cannot compete with the North. They challenge us day in and day out, but in the end they are still the second best team."

The rivalry has even been publicized in the cyberspace of Facebook, with groups being created for both sides. Trash talk and challenges have been posted on the walls of each group as both leagues try to gain the upper hand in the rivalry.

"Don't get me wrong. [The NPPL] consists of a talented group of players, but they flaunt themselves as the best. It is only a matter of time until [the SPPL] topples them," Welter said.

While the NPPL has the Rooski Doos as their affiliate, the SPPL has the West Side Ping Pong League (WSPPL) as theirs. The WSPPL is consisted of Jordan Barnes (12), Collin McCracken (12), Tom Ault (11) and Conor Price (11).

"We are minor league affiliates of the SPPL," Price said. "We think of ourselves as legit competitors, though. The NPPL is weak anyways."

The threatening words from the WSPPL do not scare the North, as they feel they are far superior to the South's affiliates.

"The WSPPL is nothing. I beat one of their players with my left hand," Copley said. "My left hand is my less dominant hand."

With the rivalry between the NPPL and the SPPL as heated as ever, they continue to play the sport of ping pong with a passion never before seen in Southwest Allen County. Yet, every once in a while, they feel a new challenge would be nice. Will a new team rise up to challenge these powerhouses? If so, they better be ready to take on the lifestyle of a competitive ping pong player.

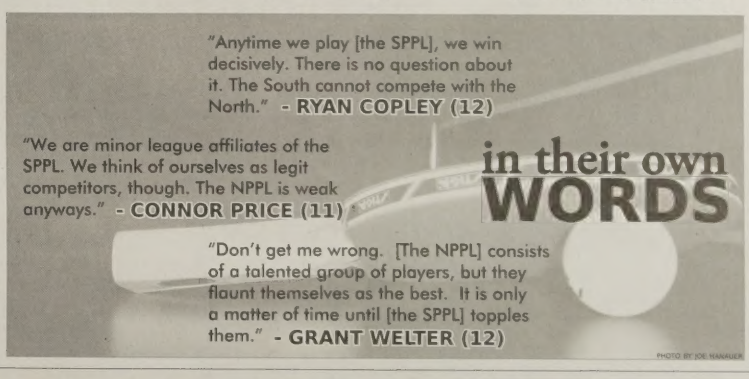

"Anytime we play [the SPPL], we win decisively. There is no question about it. The South cannot compete with the North." - RYAN COPLEY (12)
"We are minor league affiliates of the SPPL. We think of ourselves as legit competitors, though. The NPPL is weak anyways." - CONNOR PRICE (11)
in their own WORDS
"Don't get me wrong. [The NPPL] consists of a talented group of players, but they flaunt themselves as the best. It is only a matter of time until [the SPPL] topples them." - GRANT WELTER (12)

PHOTO BY JOE HANAUER

After strong finish last season, hockey leaves state tournament early

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

Almost every team feels that it can improve on its success from season to season. The Homestead hockey team was looking to duplicate the successes that lead them to winning last year's city championship. Despite the high expectations, the team found out that duplicating success was harder to do than they once thought.

"I never really thought that we didn't have a chance [to win city]," Jake Evans (12) said. "Of course at times it was disappointing because we knew we could play better, but we always found a way to rebound."

Forward Jarred Gidley (11), who had 43 points in 39 games last season, was out for a major part of the season, missing the first six league games. Another forward, Sean Palmer (12), had his season ended when he underwent surgery to repair a broken wrist.

With the team only losing four players from last year's championship squad, coaches and players alike were optimistic about repeating their success.

"[Heading into the season,] we definitely had the potential to win both state and city this year," defenseman Rob Lee (10) said.

At the midway point of the season, when each team has played every team in the league twice, the Spartans were in fourth place behind Northrop, Carroll and Snider. The team would end up rising only to third place after the conclusion of the next five games, a mark the team never thought they would be at after last year's finish.

"It's always discouraging not to be the team on top, but Fort Wayne had some tough competition this year," Reid Braun (12) said. "We just had to keep playing [through the tough games]."

After going 3-1-1 in their last five league games, the Spartans were able to propel themselves into third place, passing Northrop. The team was able to finish the season at the .500 mark, posting a 19-19-6 record. Many of the team's losses were very close, including seven games in which the team lost by just one or two goals.

"It was very frustrating [to lose close games]," Lee said. "We had the talent; we just had issues playing as a team [in some of those games]."

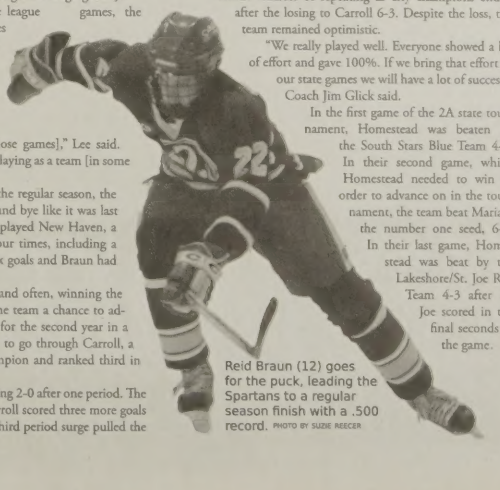
Because of its third place finish in the regular season, the team was not rewarded with a first round bye like it was last season. In the first round Homestead played New Haven, a team which Homestead had beaten four times, including a 13-2 victory in which Gidley scored six goals and Braun had five assists.

Homestead was able to score early and often, winning the game 5-3. Beating New Haven gave the team a chance to advance to the city championship game for the second year in a row. In order to do this, the team had to go through Carroll, a team that was the regular season champion and ranked third in the state.

Homestead fell into a hole early, losing 2-0 after one period. The hole got deeper in the second after Carroll scored three more goals while Homestead scored only one. A third period surge pulled the team within three, but the damage had already been done. Homestead's chances of repeating as city champions ended after the losing to Carroll 6-3. Despite the loss, the team remained optimistic.

"We really played well. Everyone showed a lot of effort and gave 100%. If we bring that effort to our state games we will have a lot of success," Coach Jim Glick said.

In the first game of the 2A state tournament, Homestead was beaten by the South Stars Blue Team 4-3. In their second game, which Homestead needed to win in order to advance on in the tournament, the team beat Marian, the number one seed, 6-5. In their last game, Homestead was beat by the Lakeshore/St. Joe Red Team 4-3 after St. Joe scored in the final seconds of the game.



Reid Braun (12) goes for the puck, leading the Spartans to a regular season finish with a .500 record. PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

SISTERact

McKenzie, Tori Bagan named state champions, team finishes in third

BY MARGARET DISTLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bagan was not the only Spartan swimmer who finished first in an individual event in the IHSAA's 35th swimming and diving state championships on Saturday, Feb. 14. Her younger sister, Tori Bagan (10), out-touched Carmel High School's Lauren Stauder to win the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:02.83 seconds. Tori, after placing third at the state meet last year behind two seniors, seized the opportunity to achieve her season goal of winning the event. Going into the meet on Saturday, both Bagans knew what they had to do.

"My thoughts [going into the meet] were just to have fun and do the best I can," Tori said. "To help me prepare, I relaxed, had fun and tried to focus at the same time."

Despite her ambitious goals for the weekend ahead, McKenzie was content.

"[Thinking about state,] I was nervous and excited at the same time," McKenzie said. "The whole week before state, [Coach] Chad [Englehart] kept saying, 'You're ready for this.' I've had Chad as my coach for the past four years—I trusted him."

Taking a quick breath, McKenzie Bagan (12) swims the second length of the 100 yard Butterfly. Her time of 54.82 seconds earned her first place.

With that trust and the support of both her teammates on deck and in the stands, McKenzie was able to pull ahead of Carmel's Jessie Hammes in the last several yards to win her first state championship title.

"All I remember is touching the wall and then sitting there for a minute. I looked at the Carmel [cheering section in the] stands and they were cheering; but when I looked at the Homestead stands, they were going berserk. When I looked at the clock, I smiled and saw that I had won," McKenzie said.

The Homestead cheering block, which was composed of roughly 50 swimmers, family members and friends, started screaming and jumping when the scoreboard showed that McKenzie had won.

"It was pretty awesome—I turned around and saw her grandpa was about to cry and her mom was going crazy," swimmer Brittney Fleenor (11) said. Fleenor traveled down to Indianapolis to cheer on her teammates during both the preliminary heats on Friday and the finals on Saturday.

"Cheering at state is different from the other meets because you know this is what we've been training for and you're not on deck to congratulate them after they swim. You can't talk to them right from the stands, so when you cheer, you have to say that from the stands," Fleenor said.

Successfully channeling the excitement gained from watching her sister's race, Tori was able to win another championship title for the Spartans. Her close race, in which she finished just 1/100th of a second faster than Carmel's Sauder, made her and McKenzie the first two sisters to both win titles in individual events at the same Indiana state meet.

"I cried; I knew they could do it," swimmer Emily Keefer (12) said. "It was really emotional. I was really happy to see both of the Bagans win."

After the 200 Freestyle Relay, Coach Candy Laux shows Kristen Kinzer (12), Emily Keefer (12) and Mariah Hamil (9) their splits.

Keefer swam on both the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay that placed second and fourth at the state meet, respectively. She also placed 16th individually in the 50-yard freestyle.

"I hoped that I would do better, so in that sense I was disappointed. But in swimming, if you don't do well, the rest of your team can still compete well. So I was happy that the Bagans were able to do that," Keefer said.

Looking back, Tori thought the best part of the meet was cheering with the team. The state team she referred to consisted of McKenzie, Keefer, Kristen Kinzer (12), Sarah Noel (12), Brittany Hinderman (12), Mariah Kiefer (12), Emeri Taivalkoski (11), Morgan House (11), Tori Bagan, Chelsea Noel (10), Tara Biehl (10), Mariah Hamil (9), Sarah Lohman (9) and Chelsey Reber (10). Totaling 163 points, the group of 14 athletes placed third behind girls' swimming powerhouse Carmel, who has finished first at state for the past 23 consecutive years, and Hamilton Southeastern.

Next season, the sisters will be on separate teams. McKenzie has signed to the University of Toledo's swim program and Tori will assume the role of an upperclassman on Homestead's team. Already, Tori has decided to set higher goals for the future and to work on breaking a time of one minute in the 100-yard breaststroke. For two years, though, the duo has spent countless hours together both in and out of the pool.

"At home, we are sisters. But at the pool, we are sisters [that are part] of a much bigger family," Tori said.

Left: The 14 members of the state team gather for a team cheer before the start of the meet. Top Left: McKenzie Bagan (12) receives her first place medal on the podium for winning the 100 Butterfly. Top Right: After winning the 100 Breaststroke, Tori Bagan (10) is awarded her first place medal during the awards ceremony.

"At home, we are sisters. But at the pool, we are sisters of a much bigger family."
-TORI BAGAN (10)

ISSUE 6
MIRADOR
27 FEBRUARY 2009
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
4310 HOMESTEAD ROAD
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46814

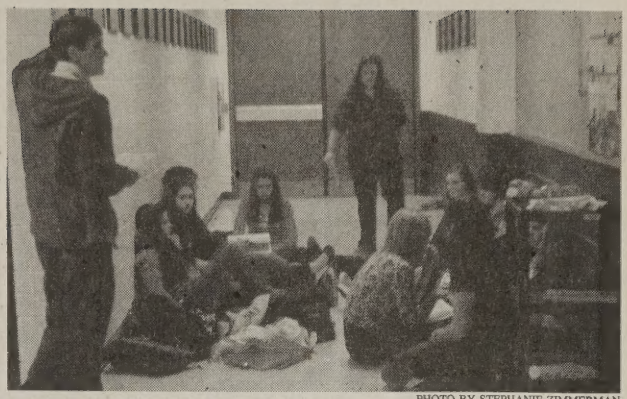


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

Make or Break: Try-outs for spring musical "Anything Goes" incite flurry of nerves and emotions for judges as well as auditioners (pg. 5).

TABLE of CONTENTS

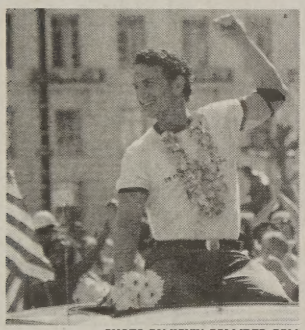


PHOTO BY WWW.COLLIDER.COM

Movie Review: "Milk," starring Sean Penn as Harvery Milk, was nominated for 8 Academy Awards (pg. 13).

3 Off-season Competition
5 When it Comes to Theater, "Anything Goes"
7 Photo Essay: Stacked Acts
9 Artist of the Month: Ally Zimmerman
11 Fashion Show: Sew New
12 Molly Zweig: Musings from the Middle East
13 Movie Review: Milk
14 Music Review: Omar Rodriguez Lopez

mir·a·dor (mr-dôr, -dr)
n. a window, balcony, or turret designed to command a broad view

Editor in Chief: Stephanie Zimmerman
Associate Editor: Megan Herbert
Photographer: Suzie Reecer
Writers: Noah Gayer, Tess Anglin, Kati Vail, Cam Kaminski

Beat Freaks: Best Friends Basses perform at halftime during basketball game against Snider (pg. 3).

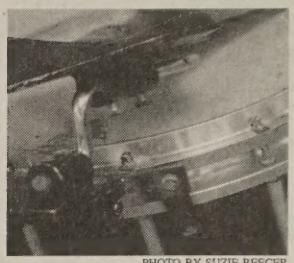


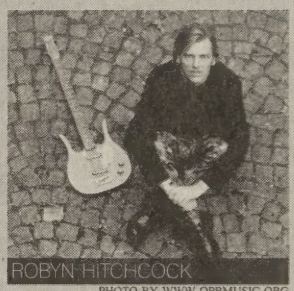
PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

RELEASES & EVENTS

12

PHOTO BY WWW.FANDANGO.COM



ROBYN HITCHCOCK

PHOTO BY WWW.OPBMUSIC.ORG

K'NAAN

PHOTO BY WWW.BONNAROO.COM

SCHLACHTFEST

PHOTO BY WWW.TARGETWOMAN.COM

MOVIE RELEASES

2/13 Confessions of a Shopaholic, Friday the 13th, Gomorrah, The International, Two Lovers

2/20 Fired Up, Eleven Minutes, Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail, Youth in Revolt, O'Horten

2/27 Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun Li, Crossing Over, An Assassination of a High School President, An American Affair

3/04 12

3/06 The Horsemen, Watchmen, All About Steve, Phoebe in Wonderland, Everlasting Moments

MUSIC RELEASES

2/17 Katherine Jenkins, Sam Roberts, Beirut, Robyn Hitchcock, Sutton Foster, M. Ward, Morrissey

2/24 J.J. Cale, Chris Isaak, Jake Owen, K'Naan, Clem Snide, Van Morrison, Lamb of God

3/03 U2, Neko Case, Rush, Andre Rieu, Buddy and Julie Miller, The Soundtrack of Our Lives

STOMP

PHOTO BY IMAGES.BROADWAYWORLD.COM

CONCERTS

3/03 Stomp (7:30 PM), Clowes Memorial Hall, $25-45

3/11 Nickelback with Seether and Saving Abel(7:00 PM), Nationwide Arena, $25-45

MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Indiana Flea Market: Various vendors, $1

3/27 3-9 PM

3/28 10 AM-7 PM

3/29 11 AM-5 PM

INTERNATIONAL

Schlachtfest 2009: Traditional German bratwurst dinner followed by Fort Wayne Maennerchor/Damenchor concert and music for dancing

3/21 6:30 PM -12 AM

Park Edelweiss

$10, with dinner

$5, without dinner

off-season COMPETITION

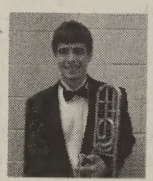
Band members show musical talents with ISSMA performances

BY KATIE VAIL
WRITER

Football is usually recognized as having the most tedious training schedule and longest season, leaving one important group of dedicated students often overlooked. The Spartan Alliance Band works from about June to October–training to become better and place in competitions during the fall. After the uniforms are put away, however, the music still rings clear and many choose to participate in the pep band or Anonymous Blue, the show choir backup band.

Another popular event for band members–along with other musically-inclined individuals–is the ISSMA contest. ISSMA, the Indiana State School Music Association, is available for the whole band to participate in, but the solo and ensemble portion of the contest provides a chance for students to select a piece of music to perform individually or as an ensemble in front of a judge. Students competing in Division I, the most difficult level, are able to advance to the state competition if they receive a gold rating at the district level. Many Homestead students participated in the contest this year, including Austin Pancner (11), who performed a solo, and the bass drum ensemble of Richard Oxyer (10), Blake Smith (11), Paul Gillette (11), Andy Mockler (12), and Brian Cummiskey (12).

"Advancing to the state competition was exciting because it gave me the chance to show other people and the judges how I play."
AUSTIN**PANCNER(12)**



Pancner, who received a perfect score at

both the qualifying contest and at the state level for a trombone solo, is no stranger to the ISSMA program; he has competed in the March competitions since the sixth grade. Although practicing two to four hours every day can be tedious work, Pancner says that it was worth it, especially when he received a perfect score at the state level "It proved that all the hard work paid off," says Pancner.

Although doing a solo can be incredibly rewarding in the end, working in an ensemble can be an equally positive–and challenging–experience. According to Gillette, "it would definitely be easier to prepare for a solo," due to the conveniences of not having to coordinate practice times. But performing as a group is not without its perks.

"It's always more fun drumming with friends than alone," says Gillette. Unfortunately, the ensemble of Gillette, Mockler, Cumminskey, Oxyer, and Smith was unable to compete at the state level because there were no designated pieces for a bass drum ensemble in Division I. In the Division II competition, however, the group received a gold rating. Although competing in front of a panel of judges can be incredibly nerve-wracking, Smith says that he was more excited than nervous.

"The judges had never really seen an ensemble performance like ours," says Smith, "and "the people watching us were very impressed with our talent". The ensemble also was able to perform during halftime at the recent Homestead Snider basketball game–a change of pace from the dance team's usual performance. So even though the football team has letter jackets with patches to boast their athletic successes, they're not the only group that works hard in search of being number one. The band competition season may be over, but with competitions like ISSMA in the spring, many musicians continue to toot their own horn.

Repetition: Best Friends Basses practice the piece they performed at ISSMA. "It's a lot more fun playing with friends," says Andy Mockler (12).

when it comes to theatre...

"ANYTHING GOES"

Mixed emotions surround spring musical tryouts

Center Stage: Sahand Emamian (9) performs in front of Mrs. Malooley and assistant drama director Brian Ernstberger during his first tryout.

BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

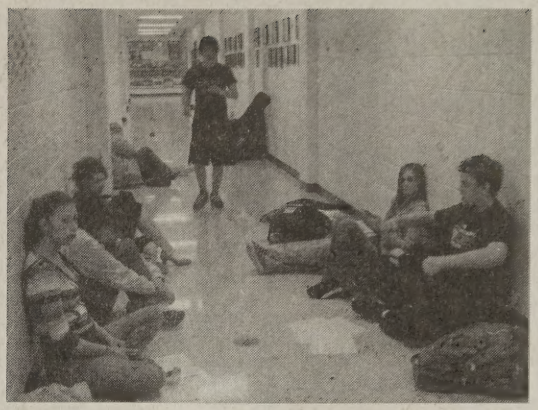
There is a gangster posing as a minister. There is a former evangelist turned night club singer. There are four back-up singers, who just happen to tap dance. There is one high society woman, her fiancée, and her ex-lover. And there is one boat–which everyone just so happens to be on.

No, these are not the makings of a much-needed "Love Boat" reunion; it is the cast for the spring musical, "Anything Goes" and the focus of dozens of students anxiously awaiting the results of three days of tryouts.

"This year, I am just trying to leave nothing behind. No regrets. I just want to do my best and try not be embarrassed," says Jenna Clark (12). "I just hope that the casting will be what's best for the musical."

Despite the two hour tryouts everyday for nearly a week, the theater is not immune from–excuse the pun–drama. Many students point to teacher bias as the sole basis of casting choices.

Amanda Jacobs is no stranger to the tryout process, having made it to all the callbacks of the three shows she has tried out for; however, the same can't be said for actual perfor-



Warm-up: Students relax nerves before the boy's tryouts begin Tuesday, February 24.

mances. Struggling with the theatre department at Homestead, Jacobs resorts to traveling to a theater in Ohio to perform, sometimes even in the same shows she had previously tried out for at Homestead. "In previous years, I think a lot of the final decisions were based on seniority," says Jacobs (11).

Previous frustrations have waned though, with the introduction of the new drama teacher, Mrs. Malooley. "As a freshman, I assumed that Mrs. Malooley would have given the parts to the seniors, but the overall tryouts seemed pretty fair," says Derek Gulley (9). Gulley was cast as Tony in the fall play, "You Can't Take it With You." It was the first play he had ever tried out for.

"I try to come as a blank slate into auditions, just waiting to be wowed by somebody," says Malooley. But sometimes that's hard, she admits, because with high schools, the musicals really have to be tailored to the talent available at the school.

For "Anything Goes," Malooley has made a few adjustments to the tryout process. Instead of singing a piece from the musical assigned two weeks prior to tryouts, those auditioning will instead choose a piece of their own to perform so choral director Dr. Shaw can "tailor the voices" after the cast list has been decided.

Students who make it to the final callbacks will also be taught a short tap dance to perform in front of the judges–including those who have no intention of applying for a role that involves tapping.

When tryouts end, decision time begins–forcing Malooley, Shaw, assistant drama director Brian Ernstberger and dance teacher Lisa Stupeck to narrow down over sixty hopefuls to around twenty performers.

> "In the end, if the little parts were not there, the show would fall apart."
>
> AMANDA**JACOBS(11)**

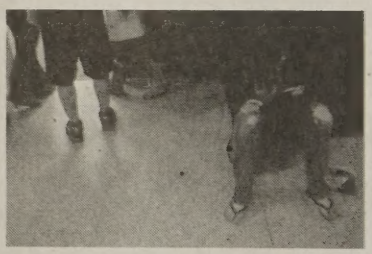
"I always say my least favorite day of the whole year is the day after tryouts when the cast list is posted," says Malooley. "Maybe its not that a person cut is a bad actor or actress, they just were not right for a certain part." That, she says, is the hardest concept to get students–and parents–to understand.

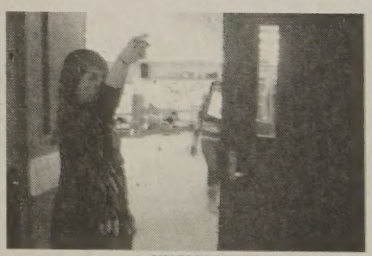
Malooley is not alone in her dread of the day final cuts are posted. "It's nerve racking waiting for the cast list and walking up to see the list," says Brooke Deady (11).

Whatever the outcome, students seem to be content with whatever part–if any–they are handed. "In the past years, I have not got exactly what I wanted, but what I did get, I made the best of it," says Clark. "I realized that the reason I didn't get the role was because there were better people for it."

AUDITIONPROCEDURE

FILL OUT INFO SHEET: List previous experience
COLD READING: Done in groups of 2 or 3
SING: Perform in front of directors
DANCE: Perform after 15 min. of instructions
WAIT FOR RESULTS: Posted morning after final call backs





PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE ZIMMEMAN

Anticipation: Above: Samantha Boyer (10) listens to her ipod outside the choir room after her tryout. Below: Kathleen Ritter (12) signals for the next person to audition.

STACKED

ACTS

Performers give preview of talents before their Variety Show debut

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER
INTERVIEWS BY NOAH GAYER

EMILY SEWARD & AMANDA BIRD

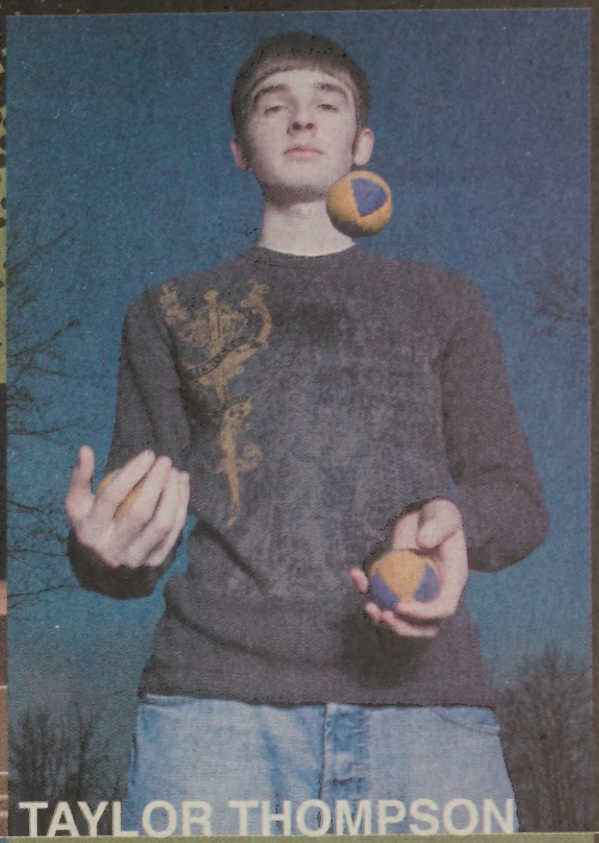
TALENT: Dancing
PREPARATION: Have danced since elementary school
FEELINGS ABOUT THE STAGE: "Being on the stage is the coolest feeling because it's your time to do what you want with it."
VARIETY SHOW EXPERIENCE: None
OUT OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCE: Both are on the varsity dance team and compete all around the state and at nationals every other year.
BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Winning nationals last year for varsity jazz.
FUTURE GOALS: Both want to dance in college.
HARDEST AUDIENCE: "It is the hardest to perform in front of your peers or anyone who doesn't get dance because it can be a hard thing to grasp or really get into."

AMY BANAS & JENNA BANAS

TALENT: Singing
PREPARATION: "...since we were little."
FEELINGS ABOUT THE STAGE: "We love to perform on stage." Amy admits that she gets more nervous than Jenna, however, once they start singing, Amy says, "any nervousness usually goes away."
VARIETY SHOW EXPERIENCE: None
OUT OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCE: Both have performed in show choir since they were freshmen, and regularly sing in their church choir and on the worship team.
FUTURE GOALS: "The only thing we know is that we want to try out for American Idol. We have been devoted fans of the show since season two."
HARDEST AUDIENCE: Peers

COURTNEY BLOSSER & MEGAN MEYER & KIMI HOLMES

TALENT: Singing
PREPARATION: "We've been a trio for about a year, but we've all been singing, dancing, and acting since we were little."
FEELINGS ABOUT THE STAGE: "We all love being on stage; it's where we feel the most comfortable."
VARIETY SHOW EXPERIENCE: 2008 Variety Show
OUT OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCE: "We've performed at the Civic Theater and the Fort Wayne Youth Theater."
BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Meyer has traveled with the Philharmonic, and has had leading roles at the Civic Theater. Holmes and Blosser participate more locally, performing in the school musicals and show choir.
FUTURE GOALS: Blosser hopes to use her talent to record music and songs, but she, like Holmes, admits that will she will probably just end up using it as something on the side rather than as a career. Meyer plans to major in Musical Theater.
HARDEST AUDIENCE: "We think it's hardest to perform in front of our peers or a small group of people. It's much more comforting being up on a big stage with lights and a big audience."



TAYLOR THOMPSON

TALENT: Juggling
PREPARATION: Has been juggling for 'weve years.
FEELINGS ABOUT THE STAGE: "I'm kind of nervous."
VARIETY SHOW EXPERIENCE: None
OUT OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCE: "Some. I performed at a convention one time."
BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Variety show
FUTURE GOALS: "I hope to keep juggling as a hobby."
HARDEST AUDIENCE: "Strangers."

ALLY ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Despite common knowledge, Fort Wayne is not the fashion meca of the world. Ally Zimmerman (12) explains why this lack of acceptable haute couture drove her to break down and design her own wardrobe.

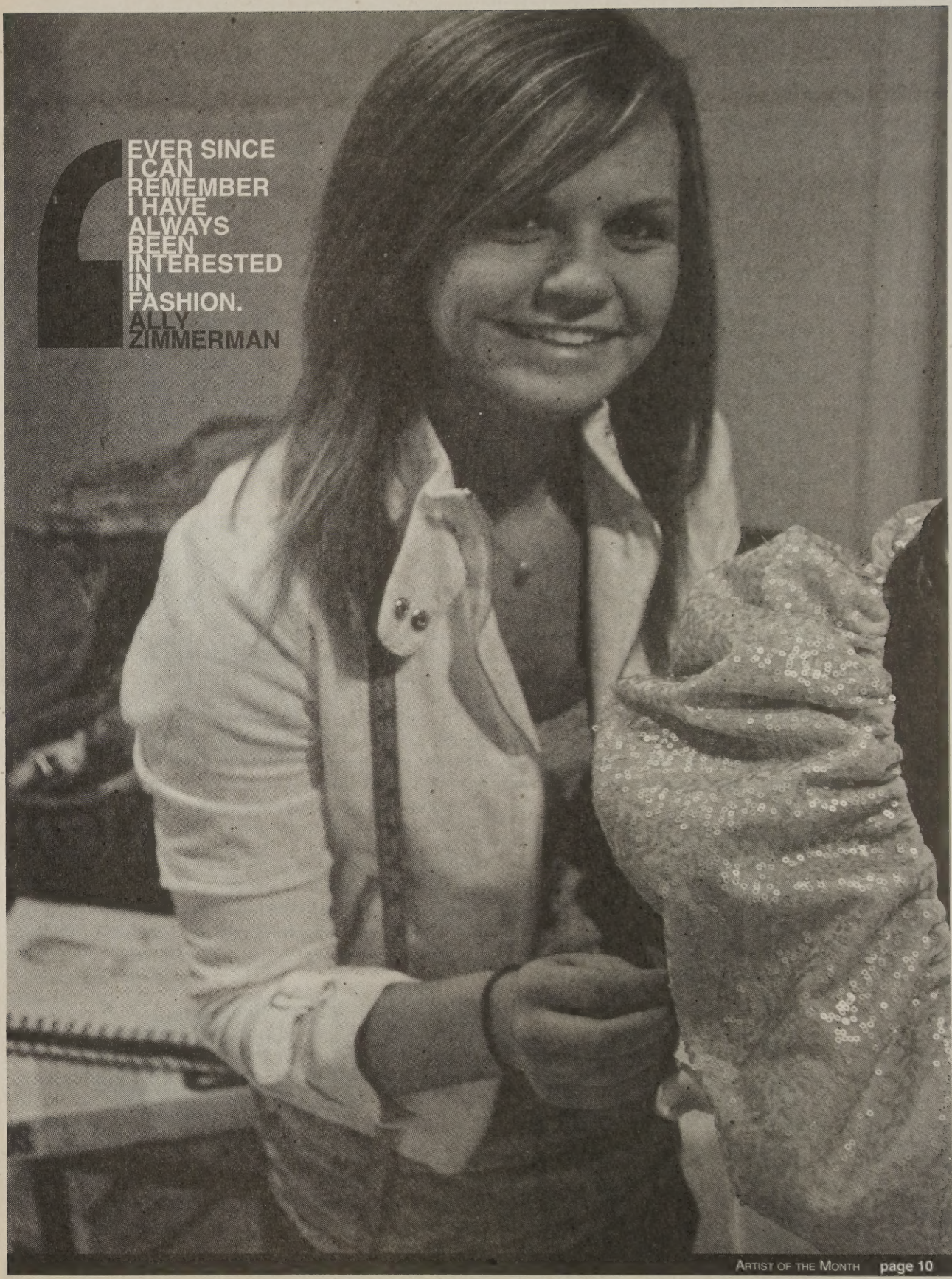
BY MEGAN HERBERT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mirador: What inspired you to ever start making your own clothes?
Zimmerman: Ever since I can remember, I have always been interested in fashion. My room is full of fashion magazines and clothes. I used to always find what I was looking for just around the stores here in Ft. Wayne, but in the last few years, my options are coming short and nothing has been fitting my creative standards for what I have wanted to wear. So, I guess you could say that is what has inspired me to start making my own designs.

BACKGROUND INFO

INSPIRED BY: "Project Runway"
SEWING MACHINE: Brother Machine
HARDEST PART: Decorative touches to garments

M: What's your favorite fabric/material?
Z: Oh, I am absolutely obsessed with fabric colors and textures. If anyone was to walk into my sewing room in my basement, all you see is fabric. Whenever I am bored and don't have anything to do, my favorite thing is to go fabric shopping, which is always a horrible idea because fabric can be really expensive, especially when I don't have the particular designs I need it for. I don't have a favorite type of fabric. Currently, though, I am currently really into fabrics that are yellow or have gold blends in them.
M: Do you plan on continuing this as a career?
Z: I recently received information back from Purdue University that I was accepted into their school of Family Consumer Sciences for Fashion Apparel Design for Fall of 2009. So yes, I am hoping to make a career out of my hobby. My dream job would to be a costume designer for Broadway plays or for movies, but there are so many options of careers I can have–including designing pattern-making, styling, or tailoring. I am also really interested in photography and plan to minor in Liberal Arts at Purdue University with an emphasis on Fine-Art Photography, so in the future I may find a way to work out my two interests into a perfect career.
M: Where do you make your clothes?
Z: My sewing machine, my dress-form (a mannequin-like body I use to size my clothing), and all of my other sewing tools, are in a room in my basement. I usually move them all right in front of our big-screen television downstairs when I sew, so I don't get too bored.
M: Do accessories really make or break one of your outfits?
Z: I think accessories are really important in making clothing really pop. They can accent any piece of clothing to make it work for night or for day; it is all just dependent on what accessories you use. My favorite accessory that I am sure a lot of people at Homestead have noticed is high heels. I love shoes.
M: What's the easiest thing to make?
Z: I would say the easiest thing to make is tube dresses. They can be hard depending on the kind of fit you want, but you don't have to mess with straps, sleeves, or pockets.
M: What do you do if you get the measurements wrong?
Z: Hopefully, if you get the measurements wrong, the garment is too big and not too small. If it is too big, it's an easy fix that only requires the seams to be taken in the areas needed, but if it's too small, panels of different fabric can be added or you have to do a lot of seam ripping.


EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN FASHION.
ALLY ZIMMERMAN

sew new & only **18** too

Senior presents designs at fashion show

BY MEGAN HERBERT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On February 6, the fashion forward of Fort Wayne came out to see the latest local fashion designs displayed at the Sew New Fashion Show. Inside the Masonic Temple downtown, four designers prepared to show their latest and greatest designs.

"I was the youngest one there by far as a designer so it was cool to see how the other designers got to where they were." says Ally Zimmerman (12). "I was able to see all the different styles that people in Fort Wayne have." Amy V., Dreme, Ally Zimmerman, and Crystal Allen composed the lineup for the first Sew New Fashion Show–each having their own style and feel for fashion. Zimmerman had two pieces in the show, both of which were short, white dresses with understated creative touches. Her dresses were modeled by Theresa Sciole (12) and Leah Collins (12).

"Theresa Sciole has been one of my close friends for awhile now so she immediately said she would help me out and Leah Collins is one of my other friends and also the person who told me about the show so I thought it would be cool if she could model for me too," says Zimmerman.

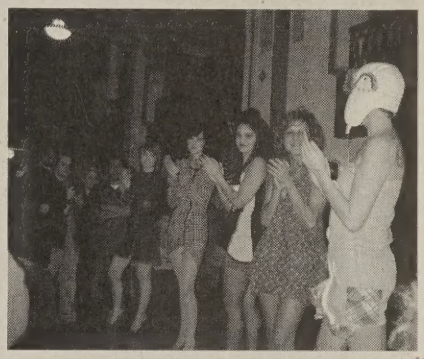
While the designer's work was done by the time the show began, the models had a totally different experience. Sciole's favorite part was getting her hair and makeup for the show, "Thankfully, I wasn't given a mohawk like some girls," says Sciole.

After a model made her first walk down the catwalk, she had to rush backstage and change into the next ensemble to walk again. "Behind the scenes it was kind of crazy. All the girls were pretty nervous they were going to mess up, fall, or not be able to get dressed for the next walk," said Collins. "All you see are girls shaking, clothes flying, and designers smiling."

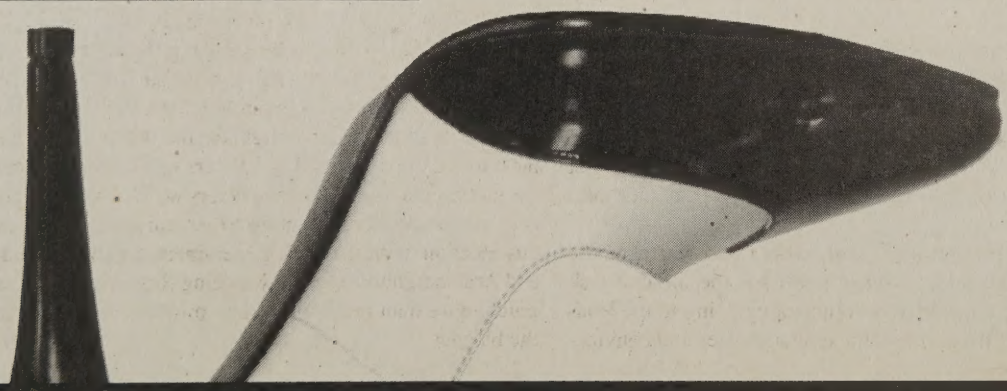
> "All you see are girls shaking, clothes flying, and designers smiling."
> LEAH**COLLINS(12)**

Fortunately, no one fell, and at the end of the show, all the models walked away unscathed and humiliation-free. "It is extremely hard walking down the catwalk. I am definitely not a high-heel type of girl. I love my flats, so it was a bit difficult, but all a part of the rush," says Collins.

Neither Sciole nor Collins plan to pursue modeling as a career, but simply did the show for the fun of it. Sara Collins (Leah Collins' sister) organized the whole Sew New Fashion Show, and is already working on a Sew New Two. Zimmerman plans to return with more designs for the next show.



On the Catwalk: Above: Theresa Sciole (12) and Leah Collins (12) model Zimmerman's (12) designs. Below: Models of other designers at Sew New Show.



The head of the party that wins the most seats gets to be prime minister, the highest position in the Israeli government. Some parties have a large platform while others have one issue. My favorite party, Ale Yarok, is trying to get compensation for Holocaust survivors and marijuana legalized.

"One Gigantic Mess"

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

There are three candidates: a familiar political man, an esteemed woman with ties to a previous leader, and a guy named Barak. Vying for the most important political position in the country, they have interactive websites, send text messages to their supporters, and even have the slogan "Yes We Can." Sound familiar? Welcome to the wild world of Israeli politics.

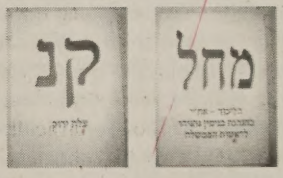
On February 10, Israel held elections–a competitive race between Benjamin Netanyahu, Tzipi Livni, and Ehud Barak. In Israel, politics is a vicious game that takes place within a vibrant democracy, the oldest one in the Middle East. As one of my teachers at the American high school here says, the system is "one gigantic mess." A couple dozen political parties attempt to win the 120 seats in the legislative body, called the Knesset. The head of the party that wins the most seats gets to be prime minister, the highest position in the Israeli government. Some parties have a large platform while others have one issue. My favorite party, Ale Yarok, is trying to get compensation for Holocaust survivors and marijuana legalized.

Elections here are a strange mix of politics and entertainment. Instead of political ads airing during television shows, there are thirty minutes each night devoted to just commercials in the weeks leading up to the election. Each party strives for a Super Bowl-esque effect with their slot, hoping that people discuss it at the water cooler the next day.

But the real political game doesn't start until after the election. The prime minister-elect has the difficult task of forming a majority government by going to the leaders of all of the parties with similar stances and convincing them to join the prime minister's side.

So, with that basic knowledge, I assumed that the party that won the most votes, the slightly left-of-center Kadima party and its leader Livni, was going to control the government. Wrong.

It turns out that everyone lost in this election. Livni only won 28 seats, whereas her rival, the right-of-center Likud and its leader Netanyahu, won 27. While Livni won the election, she's probably not going to be prime minister because it's virtually impossible for her to form a government. If Livni tried to form a government, she would have to cave to the demands of those on the right wing–if they agree to sit in her government at all.



Ballot Box: Left: Ballot of Green Leaf Party candidate Ale Yarok. Right: Ballot of Likud Party under leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu. The large Hebrew letters say "strength."

It's definitely odd to be studying the formation of American politics in my AP U.S. History class while simultaneously trying to grasp the confusing system in Israel. I am so thankful, though, for the stable system we have in America. In the U.S., voters think about education or the economy. In Israel, voters wonder which party is going to allow their country to remain in existence. In this election–with the U.S. government, Israeli citizens, and Arab neighbors closely watching the results–there is much more than the job of prime minister that hangs in the balance.

PHOTO BY WWW.CINEMAPOLIS.COM

Red carpet regular: Sean Penn–who received the 2009 Oscar for starring as Harvey Milk–has been nominated five times for the lead actor award, with one win in 2004 for "Mystic River."

MILK

Stereotypes challenged in tragic story of assassinated politician

PHOTO BY WWW.EXPLORINGBERKELEY.COM

Harvey Milk became the first openly gay man to be elected to a public office in California when he was voted to be on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978.

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

"Milk" is the newest of director Gus Van Sant's line of nominated and celebrated movies spread mainly by word of mouth. "Milk" follows the story of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be voted into public office in San Francisco.

Milk starts out with footage of police raiding gay bars in the 1950's, depicting a brutal and harsh injustice. It is then followed with the official announcement of Harvey Milk's assassination to the press. After the clips are shown, the film cuts to Milk sitting in his home nine days before his assassination, recording his will on a collection of tapes.

From this we begin seeing flashbacks, where the root of the movie lies. Starting out in New York City in 1970, we see a younger Harvey walking into a subway terminal and picking up future lover Scott Smith the day before his fortieth birthday. In the next scene they talk about how forbidden and unaccepted their relationship is, emphasizing the social taboo present at the time.

They become fed up with the prejudice in New York and decide to "run away together,"move to San Francisco, and open up a camera shop on Castro Street.

Upon receiving some threats for owning a shop and being openly gay, Harvey decides to become a gay activist. Together he and Smith attempt several times to vote Harvey into public office. It is here where we see the main struggle of the movie in which Harvey and his group of friends and activists gather to fight against the extreme oppression.

His main goal during this whole multiple candidacy is to offer hope to fellow gays across America, not only in Castro Street. Eventually, Harvey gets elected and proclaims himself "The Mayor of Castro Street"–also the title of another movie about his life. The climax comes with the inevitable assassination of Harvey Milk, which leads us to the final shot of the movie, Harvey Milk's candlelight vigil which filled the streets with thousands of people.

The film has a strong cast, Harvey Milk played by Sean Penn, Milk's young lover Scott Smith played by James Franco, and Supervisor Dan White played by Josh Brolin. Although boasting such a cast, the film was released to a limited amount of theaters, advertisements were held off until the last few weeks before its premiere in San Francisco. Despite this, the film grossed $1.4 million in 36 theaters.

Initially director Oliver Stone–who also released "W.," a biography last year–was planning on producing a film about Harvey Milk. However, due to many delays and schedule differences, the film ended up with Gus Van Sant.

While there is still a struggle for gays to become completely accepted in today's society, "Milk" perfectly replicates the early struggle to get where they are now. With a fantastic cast and well written script that maintains realism and still entertains, "Milk" is a must-see "indie" film.

PHOTO BY WWW.STONESTHROW.COM

Road Trip: Rodriguez was just fifteen years old when he joined his first band, El Paso. At seventeen, he hitchhiked around the country for a year before coming back to Texas and joining At the Drive In.

OMAR RODRIGUEZ LOPEZ

"Old Money" marks Mars Volta guitarist's seventh solo album

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

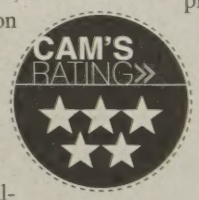
Omar Rodriguez-Lopez is a multi-talented muscian who–along with playing in a plethora of bands–maintains his amazing solo career. Omar has produced seven solo albums up to date, and with the release of his eighth titled "Old Money" he once again manages to redefine his sound. His style is an eclectic collection of Latin influences paired with an editing studio and occasionally a full band.

Old Money bursts right into a complex world of overlapping guitar riffs and clashing symbols with "The Power of Myth," immersing the listener in a torrent of sound. A long improvisational guitar dots through the entire song, as tones and a backup guitar carve a tune to which the song's fast tempo is akin, ending as quickly as it began.

The next song "How to Bill the Bilderburg Group" begins with a jazz-like sound with bending vocals and ambient sounds behind the main bassline and drums. This eerie pattern continues until it fades out into a tune of beeps and tones. From this ending comes the next song, "Population Council's Wet Dream," which is extremely heavy with effects as it pulses with energy, only getting louder as the song progresses. "Private Fortunes" changes the mood with a simple, slower beat to it, and a hint of Latin influence. The main beat continues as an electric guitar improvises through it. "Trilateral Commission as Dinner Guests" houses a saxophone battling alongside the guitars, melding into a pattern and then journeying into utter chaos.

"1921" features bells and people chanting just low enough to be inaudible, closing suddenly. At which point "Family War Funding (Love Those Rothschilds)" picks up the beat with Omar's signature improvisational dual electric guitars and backed by range of tones.

"Vipers In The Bosom" was a piece often featured in the live improvisations of The Mars Volta's song "Ouroboros." Now recorded solo, it contains maracas and an utterly eerie mood as it boils down to a slow roaring. Tempos change again with "I Like the Rockefellers' First Two Records, but After That.." which sounds like a section of a Spanish movie shoved in the middle of a Mars Volta concert.



The album ends with its title track "Old Money". In a nine minute and nineteen second song Omar proves that he can improve and solo for an entire album, and still remain unpredictable. A tenacious beginning with a high pitched solo starts it off, adding more static effects from time to time until the song finally reaches climax. At this point every segment is put together, creating a complex and entrancing track.

If you're ever in the mood to just sit around and get completely lost, Omar Rodriquez-Lopez is your man. "Old Money" is another entrancing album; while still differentiating from his other albums, it holds the same stylistic improv effects that made The Mars Volta popular.

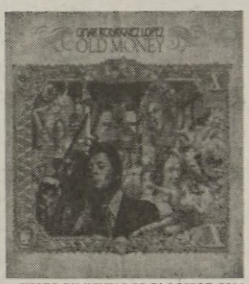


PHOTO BY WWW.3.BP.BLOGSPOT.COM

"Old Money": Besides playing the guitar, Rodriguez also plays the bass, drums, piano, synthesizer, sitar, organ, wurlitzer, gong, and clavinet.

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 12 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Friday, March 13, 2009

HUNTINGTON NORTH 56 • HOMESTEAD 47

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Boys' basketball ends season with highest record in three years

LEADING SCORERS

Departing seniors Chris Ray and Mike Bradley canned a combined total of 12 points.

PLAYER	POINTS
Zach Terrell	15
Chris Ray	10
Albert Jennings	9
Evan Pyle	4
Drew Sery	3

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

As the clock hit zero, members of the boys' varsity basketball team were either looking down at the ground or up at the scoreboard. It read: Huntington North- 56, Homestead- 47. The season was over for the team, as they fell short of accomplishing their goal of winning a sectional championship.

On Tuesday, March 3, the basketball team defeated South Side High School in the first round of sectionals by a score of 67-61. Chris Ray (12) led the team with 23 points and 11 rebounds while Zach Terrell (9) added 13 points and 10 rebounds. Following this strong showing, the Spartans turned their focus to Huntington North High School, who had beaten them 55-53 earlier in the year.

Upward Trend, continued on 6a

Gym credit may be awarded to athletes

Source: Policy change considered so that players 'can meet all their academic needs'

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

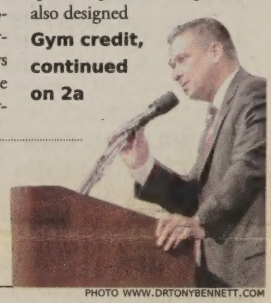
With Dr. Tony Bennett as a new Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State Board of Education, many changes are being made in the requirements for high school students to graduate. For example, some of these new changes have been approved for academic requirements like graduating tests and the amount of time that a student participates in classroom activities — particularly gym. According to the recent press release, the state has approved changes to be made to "provide flexibility to adapt the high school physical education requirement for students who demonstrate proficiency through other means."

Right now, students spend about 250 minutes in the classroom per week to receive credit for a class. However, new provisions are being made, exploring different options for ways in which students can acquire these credits. One way is allowing students who are active in school athletics to receive physical education credits for team practice hours.

"This requirement is being reviewed to try to empower schools to create individual schedules for athletes, so that those students can meet all of their academic needs," Cam Savage, Director of Communications for the Indiana Department of Education, said.

In theory, an athlete participating in a high school sport could get a gym credit for participating in that sport. By doing this, the athlete's schedule would be freed from gym so that they could participate in another academic class. The state school board's original purpose for making this an option in Indiana high schools was so that athletes could get a credit for the extra work and dedication that sports require. This option was also designed

Gym credit, continued on 2a



Dr. Tony Bennett, superintendent of the Indiana State Board of Education, speaks at the 2008 Republican State Convention.

PHOTO WWW.DRTONYBENNETT.COM

BRIEFS

DANCE AIMS FOR STATE
The varsity and junior varsity Dance teams will be competing for the IHSDTA state title tomorrow, March 14 at Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis. All 39 Homestead dance team members will be participating in this event, including 20 students from the junior varsity team and 19 from Varsity team. Homestead will be performing from 11:15 a.m. to 5:04 p.m. The admission fee is between $10 and $12, so come out and support our team.

COLLEGIATE CONNECTION MEETING
Students who are interested in taking classes at IPFW or are scheduled in the fall to take a Higher Education class are invited to an informational meeting to be held during all lunch modules on Wednesday, March 25 in Room 316, across from Student Services. Ann Souligny Brown from Collegiate Connection will be presenting.

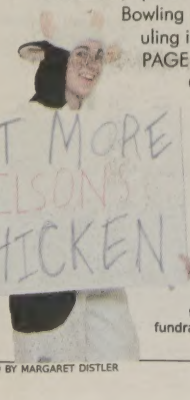
collegiate connection

PHOTO IPFW.EDU

SENIOR YEAR PREPARATION
There will be a meeting for all juniors and their parents on March 19 at 6 p.m. in the media center. This meeting is aimed to aid students in college prep processes, scholarship searches and senior expectations. Remember when you are scheduling your conferences to keep this meeting in mind if you are planning to attend.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, DECA State Placement
PAGE 3A, Opinion: We Surround Them, Ed Board, Left and Write
PAGE 4A, Life: Animal Shelter Volunteering, Winter Jam Christian Concert
PAGE 5A, Life: Student Businesses, Spartan Peer Mentoring, Laziness and Literacy
PAGE 6A, Sports: Boys' Basketball, Bowling Club, Athletic Scheduling in the NHC
PAGE 7A, Sports: Full Court Press, Special Olympics , Boys' Swimming at State Competition
PAGE 8A, Feature: **Just Because Week Recap**



Left: Nikolette Lipsey (12) wears a cow suit to promote a yearbook fundraiser during a spirit day.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Top: Class Royale members cross the stage before singing at Carroll. Bottom: After reviewing their show, choir members gather for a cheer. Right: Ashley Evans (11) performs.

THE Playlist

Class Royale performs the following numbers.

"I Got to Groove"
"Welcome to the Night"
"In Whatever Time We Have"
"I Can't Get Next to You"
"I'm Yours"
"I Wanna Take You Higher"

THE Grand FINALE

Classic Showcase wraps choir season

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

As spring dandelions and perpetually sunny days arrive to usher out winter's harsh weather, they are accompanied by the bittersweet end of seasonal extracurricular activities. While the prospect of the impending warm climate and relaxation from long, difficult hours of practice may seem appealing, members of Elite and Class Royale are both excited and disheartened by the arrival of the Classic Showcase; one of their final performances of the academic year. However, those who remain misinformed amidst the sea of choral competitions and dramatic productions have cause to wonder what exactly distinguishes the Classic Showcase from its contemporaries.

"The Classic Showcase is a chance for other schools to visit Homestead and compete in one of the bigger show choir competitions in northern Indiana,"

Choir, continued on 2a

College fair to offer 65-school preview

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

For many students, postgraduate plans are rather sketchy. Drowned out by daily dilemmas and temporary troubles, college decisions are easily overlooked. Aiding students by allowing them to preview potential colleges, the annual College Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. At this event, representatives from over 65 colleges throughout the country will be present. Diverse and varied, the schools featured range from such well known colleges, as the University of Michigan, to lesser known colleges, like Antonelli College.

Also, during the event, the yearbook staff will be selling Nelson's Chicken to support their annual Retrospect production. Along with great food, the College Fair is sure to provide students with knowledgeable information about the school of his or her choice.

"I felt the last college fair was very

College Fair, continued on 2a

COLLEGE ATTENDEES

Ball State University
MUNCIE, IND.

Butler University
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

DePauw University
GREENCASTLE, IND.

Harvard University
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Indiana University
BLOOMINGTON, IND.

Purdue University
WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.

Kettering University
FLINT, MICH.

Students advance in JFK writing contest

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

With spring comes the opportunity to recognize lesser known talents around the school, namely, the fine arts. However, lost amidst flashy choral groups and colorful art exhibits, excellent writing is an art form that is rarely celebrated or displayed. Nevertheless, despite that fact that the English Department lacks recognition, it retains respectability.

Receiving long overdue credit for students' successes in a national essay contest, the department now has visible proof of the progress it has made. For their final writing

JFK Writing Contest, continued on 2a

PHOTOS BY M. DISTLER

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Above: Amy Banas (11) performs in the girls' number after a costume change. Members are typically allotted one to two minutes for costume changes. Right: Ryan Pranger (10) and Kyler Roush (11) perform their rendition of "Can't Get Next to You."

CHOIR
CONTINUED FROM 1A

Curtis Shaw, director of both Elite and Class Royale, said. "It's a competition with other schools; however, since Homestead is the host, we don't compete. We just do an exhibition show."

While the collective show choir competes in numerous competitions throughout the course of the year, there is no doubt that each one requires a great deal of practice and preparation.

"Preparing for the Showcase really starts at the beginning of the year. Mr. Shaw and all of the parents work together to make the Showcase possible," Kimi Holmes (12), a member of Class Royale, said.

For those who are uninvolved, the innumerable performances may seem to run together, but the performers themselves are quick to distinguish the special qualities of each individual show.

"[Classic Showcase] is definitely different than other performances," Courtney Blosser (11), member of Class Royale, said. "We're not competing, which takes some of the pressure off. It's also the moment in which all of the students from other schools get to watch us after we've been hosting their choirs and connected with them all day."

Although they may not spend as much time stressing on stage, the choir members will certainly do their share of work behind the scenes.

"Some people are the room hosts and help groups get to their rooms, or some may work at the coffeehouse, emcee the event or work in the solo room," Brooke Deady (11), Class Royale member, said.

"The job of both Class Royale and Elite members is to work with the visiting schools and be an aid to basically anyone who needs help," Holmes said. "We perform right before the awards are announced. Everyone is really tired because we've been working all day, but energy is high and adrenaline is pumping. The performance is a lot more fun because we know we're not competing; it's only for entertainment."

While the show choir has spent the entirety of the year preparing for an upcoming trip to a competition in Washington D.C., a recent development will instead send them to the FAME Festival in Chicago. However, because the choir members enjoy each other's company and the thrill of performing, this abrupt change of location seems a minute detail.

"The FAME trip we went on as sophomores was really fun, and I'm excited for it because I think it's a good way to end senior year," Holmes said.

Preparing for the trip, the choirs will use the Classic Showcase to polish their show for the final competition.

"We feel very prepared to go to FAME in Chicago already, but it will be nice to have one final performance before we go," Shaw said.

Reflecting upon the season thus far, show choir members agree that this year has been worthwhile.

"We've been pretty successful this year," Class Royal member Justin Behrendsen (12) said. "I'm happy with our performances and pretty impressed with our progress."

Nevertheless, with the year drawing to a close and the giddy excitement of the Chicago trip settling in, show choir members may feel a bit nostalgic about sending off the season.

"Going into this year, we all wanted to do well and have fun at the same time," Blosser said. "This year, we've kicked it up a notch. Although we haven't won a Grand Champion yet, we have definitely paved the way to a great start. Our group is one big family that will continue to change each year, and it will never be the same as it is now. We are all very proud of who we are and what we've accomplished together this season."

COLLEGE FAIR
CONTINUED FROM 1A

beneficial; each booth had the answer to all of my questions about the college or the application process," Anna Marshall (11) said. "Plus, they handed you the right information to take home if you wanted to show your parents."

While a great number of the students who have gone to the College Fair in the past agree on its importance, it appears that many students have not heard about it, or do not plan to attend. However, because the College Fair familiarizes students with prospective colleges, it gives them a head start on planning campus visits and selecting a school. Lecture-free, this event allows students and parents to browse college options in a relaxed environment.

"I learned about several schools [at the College Fair]," Hanna Nickeson (11) said. "I have visited or plan to visit two more of these schools this year. I found out about a lot of obscure schools that I am very interested in attending."

One main reasons students do not feel they should attend is that they are too young. For example, although several underclassmen believe that they would be out of place planning so far ahead into the future, enthusiasts of the College Fair feel it is never too early to start scholastic-planning.

"I think that people should come [to the College Fair] freshman year," Nickeson said. "I came my freshman year and it helped me narrow my choices and focus my studies."

JFK WRITING CONTEST
CONTINUED FROM 1A

project of the first semester, Advanced Placement Composition students wrote well-researched essays that met the guidelines of the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Essay Contest.

Aimed at helping high school students better understand and appreciate political history, the contest required students to "consider the concept of political courage by writing an essay on a U.S. official who has chosen to do what is right, rather than what is expedient." Therefore, each student had to select a government official of his choice who demonstrated this unique form of courage as praised by John F. Kennedy in his 1956 publication, Profiles in Courage.

After receiving credit for their work, students were then given the opportunity to submit their essay in the nationwide essay contest. Of those who participated, Alison Podlaski (12), Clark Trexler (12), Samantha Chapman (12), Elizabeth Lippie (12), Maria Walker (12) and Jessica Bush (12) were second round qualifiers.

Because her students were writing at such a high level, Connie Christophersen, English Department Chair and Advanced Placement Composition teacher, was asked by representatives of the contest to explain some of her teaching techniques.

"I shared that Homestead High School's English program actually begins in our elementary schools and continues in middle and high school," Christophersen said. "Students who take AP English Language and Composition have received excellent instruction in writing from an early age. The strong foundation they have as seniors allows students to incorporate sophisticated elements of rhetoric within their own writing."

Using the knowledge amassed from their grade school years, the contest finalists were able to compose commendable essays.

"My essay was based on the courage and perseverance of Woodrow Wilson Mann, the former mayor of Little Rock, Ark.," Trexler said. "What I think makes this contest truly unique is how it brings back people that have been forgotten by society, mostly due to their convictions— convictions we should remember."

> "I think what set my essay apart was that I had broad-based research from all different sources. I brought in different aspects of John F. Kennedy himself and [also incorporated] quotes from him."
>
> **ALISON PODLASKI (12)**
> Second Round Qualifier

Although all of the students who qualified are exemplary writers, Alison Podlaski made it past the second round of judging and received notification of a very special honor.

"I'm in the top ten [students] of the nation [in regards to the essay]," Podlaski said.

Thrilled with such a prestigious placement, Podlaski reflected upon her renowned essay.

"My essay was about Senator Rupert Vance Hartke," Podlaski said. "His opposition to Vietnam was definitively something heroic because he was going against the general opinion at the time. He was one of the first people to oppose the war."

Relating Kennedy's philosophy and Hartke's unforgettable stance to current events, Podlaski explained how Hartke's opposition to the Vietnam War is similar to the dissent many Americans feel toward the war against terrorism.

"I think what set my essay apart was that I had really broad-based research from all different sources," Podlaski said. "I brought in different aspects of John F. Kennedy himself and [also incorporated] quotes from him. Also, I think my topic about Vance Hartke and his opposition to the Vietnam War is very relevant right now to the controversial war that we are in."

Allowing students to reflect on past and present political events, this unique essay contest also played a vital part in the composition curriculum.

"Students were encouraged to enter this contest because the assignment aligns well with AP English Language and Composition standards," Christophersen said. "It incorporates an authentic audience, requires understanding and application of rhetorical strategies as well as all aspects of research. An added plus is an opportunity for students to receive scholarship money."

Although the hard work is over, Podlaski awaits news of her final placement, which will be announced sometime in March. The first place prize is $5,000 and a trip to Boston, Massachusetts, to attend the Profiles in Courage award ceremony in May. The second place prize is $1,000, and up to five finalists will receive $500 each.

Regardless of Podlaski's ultimate placement, her achievement, along with those of the other second round qualifiers, is a testament to the overall excellence of an art form that deserves recognition.

GYM CREDIT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

to allow athletes to personalize their schedule to fit their graduation needs.

In response, many students welcome the idea of having other ways to find credits to graduate because this way it alleviates their decision concerning which classes to take. With the variety of courses offered, students often run into a conflict of interests between the classes they want to take and those they are required to take. The decision is often influenced by which diploma they want to graduate with and what classes they have to take to receive that diploma. For instance, although popular four-year classes like Project Lead the Way and the new BioMed program draw the attention of many prospective students, they are often challenged by classes that students are required to take. However, with alternative ways to acquire the classes necessary to graduate, students would be more academically able to enroll in other valuable options. Therefore, the idea of not having to take gym in high school is one popular among the student body.

"It would be really cool if I could get a credit for marching band and not have to take gym because the purpose of gym in high school seems to be to keep kids active during the week, Emily Boyne (10), marching band participant, said. "It is rhetorical that I go from gym to marching band after school because I am still getting the workout."

Nevertheless, although many students openly accept the idea of this credit being offered, some are reluctant to make such a drastic decision right away.

"Many of my friends and I look forward to having gym as a class because it is nice to have a class that is one where you can take a break from your school work during the day," Taylor Hamil (9), cross country runner, said. "I think that even if the gym credit was offered in other ways, many students would still want to take gym in high school because it represents a class that gives a student a break during the day."

Giving athletes the ability to opt out of gym might even give more students incentive to participate in a sport of their interest.

"This seems like a good idea because if the credit for gym was offered, then there would be an extra incentive to continue with marching band, especially during the summer," Boyne said.

Theoretically, this change could affect the number of students in gym classes and in sports, but it is felt that this factor would not make a great impact.

"I don't think that there will be an increase in the number of people that decide to participate in the sports, although some may decide to dedicate themselves more to the program with the rewards that would be offered," Chad Zolman, math teacher and football coach, said.

While it is a debatable proposition among students, there are many details that must be examined concerning the academic aspect of this idea.

"Students learn PE skills in high school and by giving them the option to not take a class takes away from what they are learning in high school," Amy Barnes, business teacher and track coach, said. "This is a good idea to let athletes participate in more academic classes, but having an athlete be just participating in their sport doesn't allow the person to explore what other sports are like."

In the process of making this alternative a viable option, there are several changes that would need to be made within the school, and because no guidelines have been drawn out for the plan's finalization, it is difficult to determine when the switch could occur, if at all.

"The state has not sent out any guidelines for these new rules, and so the schools are still waiting on the state to put guidelines on the idea before any one acts upon it," Rosemary Bobish, guidance counselor, said.

Upon suggestion, this idea seems logical; however, after further examining it, many people have found that there are more questions to be asked.

"I would like to know more details about what I, as a coach, would have to change in order to meet the requirements to get the credit for participating," Zolman said.

Overall, feelings regarding this switch are relatively divided. Nevertheless, some students continue to suggest that this proposed guideline change would be very beneficial, giving many students the opportunity to fit more classes into their busy schedules.

"This sounds like a great idea," Boyne said. "I hope that the school decides to implement this at Homestead."

DECA places sixth in state showing

Two seniors take home individual placements in business simulation challenges

BY PRIYA PARIKH
WRITER

On Feb. 28, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), placed sixth at the state competition in Indianapolis. Along with the team's cumulative placement, many individual and partner groups were successful. Although the preparation that students endured to prepare for state was intense, they felt that the work well paid off.

Members of DECA who competed in the Hospitality and Recreational Marketing category, Kate Lessing (12) and Moll Harber (12) were asked to create a business plan to help a local company maintain and increase sales during the current economic turmoil.

"Some categories in DECA require little or no preparation; however, my partner and I decided on a written research event," Lessing said. "We prepared a 30 page marketing campaign for the local coffee shop, Mocha Lounge. We had to study surveys and interview the owner as well as prepare a fifteen minute PowerPoint to present to the DECA judges."

As for the state competition, most students came to a consensus that the overall trip was enjoyable and the results were satisfying.

"There were so many schools, and we did really well," Katrina Schreiber (10) said. "We ranked in the top ten, which is great."

Sharing Schreiber's opinion, Justin Hoffman (12) expressed his enthusiasm as well, noting that along with providing a educational experience, DECA is very socially oriented.

"I think everyone who went to DECA had a great time and can't wait to go back and compete again," Hoffman said. "A few classmates did good enough to make it to nationals which is an unbelievable accomplishment. I enjoyed everything about DECA. The competition itself was a lot of fun, and the free time along with the dance the last night was just a great experience."

Along with the team's top ten placement, Donald Orpen (11), Catherine Needler (11), Ashley Meruani (11) and Jessica Nguyen (11) placed first individually, and therefore will advance to the international level in late April, which will be held in Anaheim, CA. Thrilled to make the journey, Harber reflects upon her experience, looking forward to global contest with much anticipation.

"The thing I enjoyed the most about DECA was getting first place at state this year," Harber said. "It was an awesome feeling knowing all of the work we put into our paper and presentation, but also the opportunity to go to Indianapolis, stay at the hotel, dress up and compete with people from all over the state. The DECA dance was also extremely fun."

Chaperoned by Brian McNeal, Business teacher, each of the nearly 100 students reflected positively on the results of the state competition, building anticipation for their team members' advancement to the international level as well.

"We might have a slim chance of winning, but I know we will have to invest more effort into our campaign if we want to be successful," Lessing said. "As competitive as I am, I have to force myself to remember that at the end of the day, it is just a competition, and that I should enjoy California.Regardless, I know we will all make our school proud. We are a great group of kids and we have a lot of potential."

Your two cents are worth millions to us.

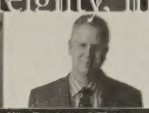
thespartana@gmail.com

OPINION

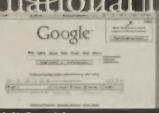
left & write debates national sovereignty, international image, 3a

page 3a
issue 12 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

International Image



We Surround Them

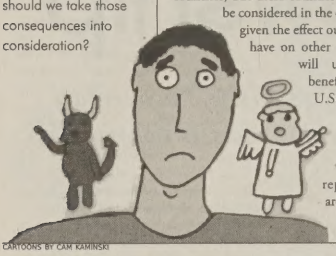


Spirit Day Ideas

Friday, March 13, 2009

LEFT AND WRITE | International Image: A Factor or Distractor?

The Issue: While organizations like the United Nations stand to promote multilateralism, others promote the idea that the United States should maintain complete national sovereignty. Economic strategy not considered, when planning foreign or domestic actions that could either help or harm our international image, should we take those consequences into consideration?



CARTOONS BY CAM KAMINSKI

International image key to success

BY HAYDEN O'SHAUGHNESSY
GUEST WRITER

The U.S. is the only remaining superpower. If the U.S. wants to maintain that status, then it must create favorable relations with other countries. The U.S. government must be conscious of its actions, positive or negative, and the effects on other countries.

This is not to say that it is necessary for the government to base all its decisions off of the welfare of other countries, but these countries need to be considered in the equation, given the effect our actions have on other countries will ultimately benefit the U.S. through the preservation of our reputation around the globe.

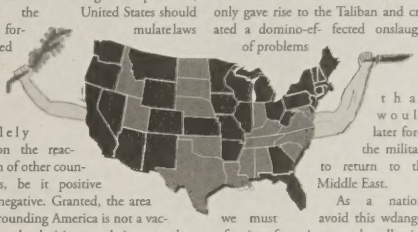
Take, for instance, the recent torture cases in the Middle East. With some reservation in 1994, the US government defined torture in Article 1 of the 1984 Convention Against Torture The CIA's use of torture in the Middle East was a direct violation of international law. Their decision to use torture risked both the United States' reputation and safety. Their decision left the U.S. susceptible to terrorist attacks, in addition to a tainted image. Now, torture used during the Bush administration is under scrutiny by the U.N. The U.S. cannot afford to taint its reputation merely because we did not consider the effects our actions had on other countries.

Many would agree that the United States has a tendency to overstep its boundaries in foreign countries in an attempt to be "altruistic" and the government is believed to have a moral agenda. Now, let me ask you this, how many politicians do you know that have morals, at least while they are at work? How many politicians do you know that are incorruptible?

National self-interest top priority

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

The United States has a history of being exceptionally conscientious- sometimes at its own expense. The concoction of federal policy requires a great deal of thought and precision, but the United States should not formulate laws based solely upon the reaction of other countries, be it positive or negative. Granted, the area surrounding America is not a vacuum- the decisions made impact others, and this accountability should be considered when choosing our actions.



Beyond this rudimentary sense of precaution, the United States cannot act solely with the welfare of other nations in mind- we must operate in our own self-interest before we take measures on behalf of another country.

The United States' treacherous tendency to overstep its boundaries was exemplified when we provided armaments to Afghani resistance during the Russian invasion- our involvement only gave rise to the Taliban and created a domino-effected onslaught of problems that would later force the military to return to the Middle East.

As a nation, we must avoid this wdanger of interfering and allowing other countries to dictate our legislation. While we cannot act carelessly as though the rest of the planet is a void, we must take care of ourselves before we move beyond our own borders.

THE PEOPLES' PLATFORM

Individual principles, values determine national response to recurring crises

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

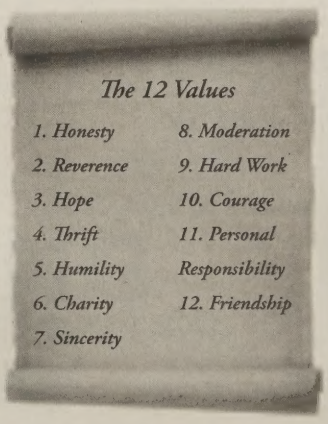
In the wake of a crisis, people band together.

The crisis I am referring to has less to do with GDP and unemployment and more to do with the man sitting in office. If Republicans are to recover any of their influence, it won't be through bipartisanship, or centrism, but through a recommitment to our ideals. I am not advocating extremism, what would just be an equal and opposite reaction to today's leftist movement. I am stating, rather, that our ideals will prove themselves when given the opportunity. Those opportunities may come by Obama's failure, by the people's short-lived "hope," or by our own making, but they will come. So stop compromising. No, we are not going to meet them halfway. Why? Because they wouldn't do it either; we would end up going the full 100 yards. Was either Democrat a centrist? Not by any measure. Was Obama's lame [and failed] attempt to incorporate Republican opinion into his cabinet legitimate? No, it was just politics.

You want politicians to stop flip-flopping? Then let them know what the people demand. But before we can do that, we need to know what we demand; we need a people's platform.

Glenn Beck has helped us out. The following outlines nine principles which one should strive to incorporate into his or her outlook in order to take back our culture:

1. America is Good.
2. I believe in God and He is the Center of my Life.
3. I must always try to be a more honest person than I was yesterday.
4. The family is sacred. My spouse and I are the ultimate authority, not the government.
5. If you break the law you pay the penalty. Justice is blind and no one is above it.
6. I have a right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, but there is no guarantee of equal results.
7. I work hard for what I have and I will share it with who I want to. Government cannot force me to be charitable.
8. It is not un-American of me to disagree with authority or to share my personal opinion.
9. The government works for me. I do not answer to them, they answer to me.



The irony is that this is not a partisan platform; it is a Constitutional platform. Beck compiled these principles and values from our Founding documents and the accompanying religious texts that influenced the Founders. This is not the product of just another pundit, or even just another conservative; this is from the likes of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

And here is the beautiful thing about the system they set up: necessity is the mother of invention. When a business completely independent of government support or regulation falls on tough times, they, motivated by the profit motive, will do everything possible to survive. That means improving the quality of a product, improving the services they provide, lowering prices, adding benefits, basically, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going."

We will always encounter crises. This recession and this presidency will not be the last. It is in both our national and individual responses to hard times, however, that we find our true character.

If you agree with at least seven of the nine principles, Beck asks you to send a picture of yourself to wesurroundthem@foxnews.com.
For a further discussion of the values above, tune in to Fox News tonight at 6 p.m.

Ed Board: latest block highlights true principle

Every year, Southwest Allen County Schools strives to confirm its oft-overlooked mission statement, promising to prepare students for successful futures after graduation. Every year, Southwest Allen County Schools convinces its students that they are a part of an exceptional district characterized by a rigorous curriculum and devoted teachers. And every year, Southwest Allen County Schools reiterates the prevalence of technology in academic progress.

This year, however, the district has committed the ultimate contradiction. The filtering of universally used (and respected) search engine Google may have been enacted by SACS technology experts, but the mere concept is wholly a reflection on the district.

We are tired of arguing for the unblocking of thoroughly informative sites, but we are not exhaused. Every brick hurled at us by hidebound technology specialists has — and will be — deflected with a juvenile savivess unmatched by any administration. Google may be a sprawling lattice of subsites partially in violation of district code, and we understand that. The solution, however, is not to set an animal shelter ablaze because of one rowdy canine.

At the end of the day, students are indifferent to such a move; after all, they will be crawling through a loophole only minutes after the dirt has settled. The principle is obviously the true irritant. Until Google in its entirety, among other sites, is unbanned, students will be participating in an uphill battle — except they will not trudging up the slope, but sitting contentedly at its peak.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
CHARLES WALTER

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
JOE HANAUER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE
students run own business for economic prosperity, experience, 5a
page 4a
issue 12 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Peer Mentoring

Student Businesses

Freshmen Groups

Friday, March 13, 2009

feline fellowship

Working as "Cat Socializers," two seniors make most of weekly volunteer opportunity

Above: Volunteering at the Animal Care and Control two hours once a week, Nikolette Lipsey (12) gives attention to homeless cats. Below: "Socializing" with a cat, Morgan Beard (12) interacts with the animals to ensure that they are suitable for the adoption program.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MORGAN BEARD

BY BRADLEY ADAMSON
WRITER

When the word "volunteering" comes up in conversation, most students do not want anything to do with it. However, Morgan Beard (12) and Nikolette Lipsey (12) volunteer at Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control for selfless reasons of passion and devotion.

"I volunteer once a week on Wednesdays for two hours," Lipsey said. "I wish I had more free time because I'd love to volunteer for even longer."

Beard's cousin told her about how he was volunteering at a shelter through PetSmart, and she thought that it sounded like fun because she likes animals. So, Beard asked Lipsey if she wanted to volunteer with her and she accepted. They found the information and filled out the paperwork required for volunteering. Once Beard and Lipsey were approved, they started as soon as possible.

The main reason Beard and Lipsey volunteer is because of their love for animals. They love to be around them and experiencing the admiration of the animals to which they are giving their attention. Beard and Lipsey also love to help the animals find homes, and then see the new arrivals that show up every time they volunteer. They hope the best for the adopted animals and enjoy seeing the different personalities of the new ones.

> "I wish I had more free time because I'd love to volunteer for even longer."
> **NIKOLETTE LIPSEY (12)**
> Cat Socializer

"I like giving back to the community, and I love animals, so I figured volunteering at the Animal Care and Control would be the perfect place for me," Lipsey said.

Beard and Lipsey have an overall great experience each and every time they volunteer. They both really enjoy the animals and want the best for them.

"When I finish volunteering, I'm already thinking about the fun I'll have next week," Lipsey said. "I feel great having spent a couple of hours with the animals, and I hope that all of them are adopted."

Even though they want the animals to be adopted, they are always the strong feelings of wondering whether or not the animals will be there again the next time they volunteer. Regardless, they still want the animals to get adopted and go to a loving family.

If the animals had no one to care for them during their stay at the shelter, then it would be hard for them to get adopted. It is Beard's and Lipsey's job to have the animals experience a household setting before they are actually adopted.

"Our interaction is very important because the cats start to get stressed out and a little stir-crazy when they are in cages for too long, which sometimes can mean they are taken out of the adoption program," Beard said. "I actually got bit two weeks ago by a cat that had been at the shelter for a while, and the doctor decided to take it back to the triage."

Even though Beard and Lipsey have only been volunteering for a short time, they hope to be able to volunteer more often and expand their volunteering careers.

"I have only been volunteering for one month," Beard said. "I would have started sooner but we had to attend a four-hour orientation first, and those are scheduled for two days every other month. I have talked to the director about the PetSmart program they have, in which you clean and take care of animals at PetSmart before the store opens, but those positions are taken right now. They also have dog washes every Monday night, which I plan to attend some time in the near future."

Students attend Christian concert as alternative to MORP

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

There are all different kinds of concerts; country, rock, rap and Christian just to name a few. However, different concerts contain different atmospheres; classical concerts are the polar opposites of rock concerts. Winter Jam is a Christian concert that is entertainment that also contains a spiritual quality.

The Winter Jam concert, which will be held tonight, March 13, seems to be a happy medium between the two. Tickets to the Christian concert will cost ten dollars at the door and no tickets being sold prior to the night of the concert. Every year, different groups of Christian artists play at the show, and this year's highlights are Toby Mac, Hawk Nelson, Brandon Heath, New Song, Francesca Battistelli, pureNRG, Stephanie Smith, The Afters, Barlow Girl, Family Force 5 and Tony Nolan.

However, the question for Homestead students is the classic "to be or not to be," or to be more precise, "to go or not to go." Winter Jam falls on the same night as the annual MORP dance. MORP spells "prom" backwards, but the dance is as far away from prom as a dance can get. Girls ask boys to the informal dance, which is considered by many to be the best dance of the year. Deciding to go to the event that will cost the least will not be an effective way to choose, as both MORP and Winter Jam tickets cost ten dollars. However, there is a chance of not being able to get into Winter Jam because the tickets may sell out on the night of the concert. Megan Todd (12) went to Winter Jam last year, but is skipping it this year to go to MORP. For Todd, the decision was simple.

"It's my senior year and MORP is the [best] dance for me because I don't have to worry about dressing up," Todd said.

When Todd went to Winter Jam last year, the artists would take time before they began their performance to say something about their own faith and the struggles they themselves have experienced. According to Todd, the concert is "not about being as loud as you possibly can" but is instead about faith. The audience is even given the opportunity to pledge their lives to Christ during the event.

> "I went to MORP last year and I won't go back."
> **MOLLY HINDERMAN (11)**
> Attending Winter Jam

Molly Hinderman (11) is going to be attending the concert instead of going to MORP. The dances held by Homestead just don't have the allure that Winter Jam holds for her. She will be going to the concert with some friends after hearing about it through her youth group at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton Church.

"I went to MORP last year and I won't go back," Hinderman said.

Graham Bredemeyer (11) will also be attending the concert instead of MORP this year. He was invited to go with the Miranda Lock (10) and her family.

"We decided that [Winter Jam] would be a better event to go to instead of MORP," Bredemeyer said.

Unlike MORP, the concert is not simply a way to have fun, but also a form of worship for those attending.

"For me, singing is like praying times ten," Hinderman said.

WINTER JAM 2009

WHO: Open to all ages, advanced tickets are not required for admission, pay $10 at the door.

WHAT: A Christian Concert with performances by the bands tobyMac, Hawk Nelson, The Afters, NewSong, Francesca Battistelli, pureNRG and Stephanie Smith with a special appearance by Guest Speaker Tony Nolan.

WHERE: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

WHEN: Doors will open at 6 p.m. tonight Friday, March 13. The lights go down at 6:55 p.m. and lasts until 10:20 p.m.

Seating is on a first come first serve basis, come early for the best seats.

Students: 'Take a look, it's in a book'

Illiteracy isn't all it's cracked up to be. Neither is laziness.

I know people are busy in this fast-paced world, with their corporate jobs and expensive cars — there's just not enough time in the day. Oxymoronically, the shear amount of apathy that lies within these same people is deplorable. When they do have time off, they spend it on gossip websites and watching reality shows. Instead, people need to start doing something a little more culturally and intellectually fulfilling.

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOC. EDITOR

An informal poll of 73 students at Homestead High School, conducted by the Lufkin Research Institute of Indiana, found that, on average, they have read six and a half books in the past 12 months, including assigned class readings. That's pretty low if you ask me, considering students have to not read all of their assigned readings to reach that statistic.

A more formal, 2007 Associated Press-Ipsos poll, found that one in four Americans had not read a single book in the past year. We live in one of the most successful countries in the world, but our power and leverage in the world certainly doesn't stem from how well read we are. Think how much more powerful we could be if we all just read *Animal Farm.*

We need to re-interest kids in reading. Something needs to be done so that American children do not fall even further down the list of the most educated students. For such a powerhouse in the global picture, our kids 'don't read too good.'

I think school turns reading into a chore for many students; teenagers have a generally malaise and lack of interest toward homework, and when reading is assigned as homework for 12 years, they start approaching all reading with that same apathy and pessimism. But who can blame them? All of the literary analysis done in school isn't exactly the most fun thing in the world.

Parents and teachers tried associating reading with fun since we were little children. A lot of the books we read comprised of animal protagonists who faced a simple moral dilemma. What's more fun to a five year old than a duck who learns to share through his past actions as a greedy duckling?

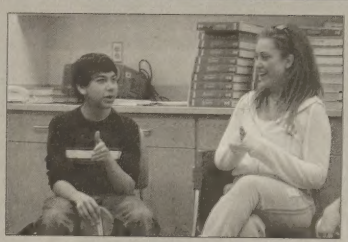
Did we learn nothing from Reading Rainbow? LeVar Burton tried so passionately to give the reading bug to kids all across the country, but it seems that we've found the antidote in electronic entertainment. In place of reading, we steal virtual cars and watch videos of laughing babies on YouTube.

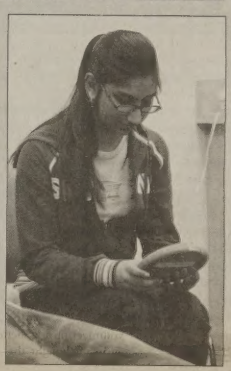
If you can find the time to watch a five hour marathon of that pathetic excuse for a TV show called "Rock of Love," you can find time to read a book — a short story, at least.

Next time you find yourself with some free time, instead of picking up the remote, head over to the library. It's not that far away, and it will surely be more fulfilling than watching a washed-up '80s rocker find love.

facing their peers

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DIXTER, BEN MIKESELL





Top: Courtney Burton (11) leads a peer mentoring group consisting of freshmen Ashely Steiner, Daymon Osborn and Jordan Klinker. Above: Tomas Leal (9) motions to describe a Catch Phrase clue to Megan Meyer (12). Right: Sandeep Kaur (9) puzzles over a Catch Phrase clue to share with others in their group activity.

Spartan Peer Mentor program allows juniors, seniors to help underclassmen with real issues

BY AREZOO NAZARI
WRITER

White walls, long gerbil tunnels and five to six hundred new faces. In the beginning of the year, freshmen cross the threshold of the Freshmen Academy doors with uncertainty, curiosity and more than a tinge of excitement. Yet, entering a domain that is unfamiliar to a number of these students can lead them to troubling situations. For four years now, the Spartan Mentor Program has helped freshmen assimilate to high school by providing them with a comforting environment and a smooth transition into high school.

The program focuses on building friendships and getting connected with the school. Freshmen sign up for seminar, which is collaboration among classmates incorporated with a study hall, and along with it comes one day a week where they meet with two upperclassmen as their leaders for the semester. Talking in small groups with classmates that may not be their closest friends allows them to share their opinions.

"The key component about this program is that new relationships can be built," Brian Dobias, counselor and Spartan Mentor Coordinator, said. "The idea is to incorporate different cliques and to share ideas with one another, and allow them to understand that it is okay to be different."

Topics that are discussed among freshmen and their leaders vary from studying life skills, careers and decisions about alcohol, drugs and bullying. The goal is for the upperclassmen to answer any questions from the freshman and to clear up confusion about high school and everyday decision-making.

Five years ago, a pilot program was established to see if the groups would be successful. They started with 20 mentors and 100 students to simulate how it would run if they decided to proceed with the groups. The turnout was better than expected and, with the freshman academy up and running, the groups worked out well for the first year.

"We normally have an average in the mid-60s for the number of mentors, and the freshmen who have taken seminar have given a positive response overall," Christina Davis, freshmen counselor and Spartan Mentor Assistant Coordinator, said.

> "Being a 'role model' and someone the underclassmen can talk to about issues and to help them adjust is what I think is the best part [of peer mentoring]."
>
> **THERESA BUSSE (11)**
> Future Mentor

However, certain qualifications are required to become a Spartan Peer Mentor. An application along with an essay are requirements, followed by an interview. The interview is informal in nature held with four other interviewees, three guidance counselors and two mentors from the previous year. Usually half of the first year mentors will reapply for their senior year. Those who do not reapply the following year usually pursue higher education, co-op or the future teachers program. Students who will be new to the program have high hopes about next year.

"I wanted to do [peer mentoring] because I have not heard anything negative about it. Being a 'role model' and someone the underclassmen can talk to about issues and to help them adjust is what I think is the best part," Teresa Busse (10) said. "Homestead is a big school, and last year as a freshman it helped me a lot with being able to talk to upperclassmen."

A TYPICAL WEEK FOR A PEER MENTOR

Monday: have class with fellow mentors to discuss the topic of the week and review Freshman groups

Tuesday: prepare lesson plans for upcoming Freshman groups with one other mentor

Wednesday/Thursday: lead Freshman groups during seminar in the Ninth Grade Academy

Friday: complete lesson plans for upcoming week and write reflection papers for previous week

TAKING
care of business

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL GILLETTE

Averaging 25 lawns per week, Gillette brothers Paul (11) and Ben (10) created their own lawn care business to generate a personal income.

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Between homework, sports, clubs, extracurricular activities, chores, friends and other mundane tasks it is nearly impossible for a regular high school student to find a perfect balance; add a business to manage on top of all of the previously mentioned and you have an extremely busy student that can be prone to stress.

Students looking to start their own businesses after finishing their education often enlist in the various business classes Homestead offers, waiting until after high school or college to actually try to begin a business.

"You can learn a lot from taking a class and reading about business, but the best application is hands-on. When you take on the responsibility of running your own business you have all the responsibility on your shoulders. It makes it real and more relevant than just doing it in a classroom," Karen Hirschy, business teacher, said. "There are numerous things that come up as you are running your business that you can't always anticipate and prepare for. It really teaches you about problem solving."

Among students who have become ambitious entrepreneurs are brothers Paul Gillette (11) and Ben Gillette (10) who run their own lawn care business, Gillette Lawn Care.

"We take our business very seriously. We have business cards that we can hand out, a very professional looking flyer that we have designed, invoices, accounting records and a wagon that we pull with our tractor that has our name and phone number on it," Paul said.

Gillette Lawn Care demands plenty of time from the Gillette siblings. During their busiest season the Gillette brothers mow a maximum of 25 yards a week, with each yard taking approximately 30 minutes to mow.

"During the fall we are very busy and basically have time for nothing else with our days, [which end at] at least 8 p.m. every day. It is a great feeling when [mowing season] is all over in November and we can go back to a normal life again," Ben said.

Unlike the Gillettes business, Jared Gidley (11) runs his business from a computer. Working online and engaging in virtual contact with his clients, he was able to start at a young age.

"I started off when I was about 13 or 14 years old, when my dad first purchased me a paintball gun that was worth about $1,250 and behind his back I began trading from a website my friend showed me," Gidley said.

Gidley's business evolved, without his father's knowledge, despite setbacks during its beginnings. Now the online business flows into Gidley's regular schedule with ease.

"I usually work about an hour or two a day during the school week by just checking updates, answering emails and talking to clients on AIM," Gidley said.

Students strive to provide themselves with their own monetary resources for varying reasons; whether it is due to a parental requirement, a need at home or a simple desire to have extra change jingling in the pockets of their jeans, students always want money.

"When I was younger I always was looking for a way to make some money for things I wanted to buy. My parents would never spoil me so I decided I would make money on my own so I could buy things myself," Paul said.

Apart from the fiscal benefits a business brings, the responsibility of satisfying customers with your own work or finished products provides rewards that last a lifetime.

"The business has taught me the most about the value of work and money. It is a lot easier to spend your parent's money than it is to spend money that you have put in the time to earn yourself," Ben said.

In contrast to the structured businesses the Gillette brothers and Gidley run, other students engage in more relaxed business settings. Student Adam Gayer (9) has participated in various art fairs and does pieces upon request. He finds painting to be his passion, a passion that results in profits as a side effect.

"I always have been interested in art and being a painter, and having a business with that was something I tried to get into from the beginning," Gayer said. "I'm not extremely serious about my art doubling as a business. I like to have a fun time with it all but I am learning about how to run everything."

SPORTS

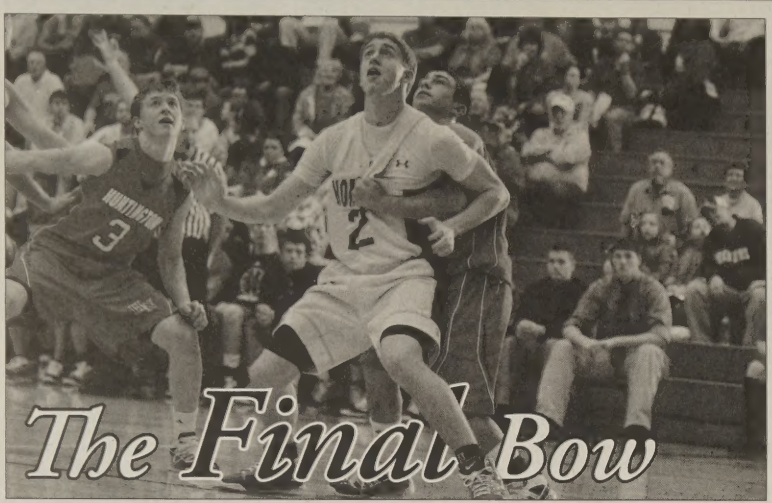
boys' swimming travels to indianapolis, places seventh at state, 7a

page 6a
issue 12 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

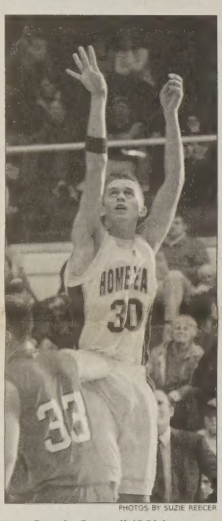
Boys' Swimming

Bowling

Boys' Basketball



The Final Bow


PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Top: Dustin Durnell (11) boxes out an aggressive opponent to compete for a rebound. Bottom: Chris Ray (12) follows through on a jump shot.

BOYS' BASKETBALL CONTINUED FROM 1A

"Going into the Huntington North game, we felt we had a great chance at the sectional title, but we had to take it one step at a time," Drew Sery (10), a varsity player, said.

However, this step was hard to get over. From the start of the game, it was evident that the team would have to battle for a victory. As the Vikings continually hit big shots, the Spartans couldn't seem to find their rhythm. The team went into halftime down by five points. That hole proved too deep to climb out of, as the team came no closer than four points throughout the rest of the game. The game ended with the final score of 56-47 in favor of Huntington North.

"I was disappointed with the loss because the team had worked so hard to get to this point in the season. It was tough letting a chance at a Sectional title slip slowly away," Evan Rhoades (10), a varsity player, said. "I wish things could have turned out differently."

For Ray and Mike Bradley (12), the game was their last as a Spartan. Both were co-captains on the team, and both were essential to the team's success. Ray averaged 11.7 points per game for the team and was second on the team in rebounds, while Bradley, who averaged 5.1 points per game, was mainly depended on for his outside shooting. Both players helped the team overcome the loss of Rodney Thompson, a fellow senior, in the off-season, and they helped the team stay confident and on-course throughout the season.

The team has improved its record each year for the past three years, and with at least 8 players returning from this year's team, it does not seem to far-fetched to believe that the Spartans can be great for years to come.

"I think we have a chance to be really good next year. We have a lot of guys coming back that can make an impact on the team. I am really excited to get back on the court and make it happen," Jay Curry (11), the team's third leading scorer, said.

With four starters and multiple role players returning, the team is looking to improve on the success they attained this season. With players like Sery, Rhoades, Curry, Terrell, Andy Phillippe (11), Albert Jennings (11), Dustin Durnell (11), Evan Pyle (11) and Wes Ring (11) coming back next year, the team's playing experience and chemistry will undoubtedly contribute to a successful year.

Although the team failed to accomplish their goals of winning a conference and sectional title, the team was able to accomplish many other things that are promising for the future. While the final game was not something the team would like to remember, the final chant from the Rod Sillies in the student cheering section summed up what was going through everyone's mind as the players walked off the court; "We love Rodney."

FINAL RECORD

13-9

at Harding	W	42- 38	at Fort Wayne Concordia	W	58- 54	at Norwell	W	52- 46
Fort Wayne Wayne	L	55- 66	Columbia City	W	60- 50	Carroll (Fort Wayne)	L	52- 55
Fort Wayne South	W	77- 63	at Fort Wayne North	L	53- 55	Fort Wayne Elmhurst	ot W	69- 65
at Manchester	W	67- 38	at East Noble	L	45- 53	Fort Wayne Snider	L	54- 67
Heritage	W	47- 39	at Bellmont	W	47- 31	Fort Wayne Northrop	L	64- 65
Fort Wayne Canterbury	W	71- 59	DeKalb	W	52- 35	Fort Wayne South	W	67- 61
Huntington North	L	53- 55	Fort Wayne Dwenger	L	37- 48	at Huntington Nort	L	47- 56
			at New Haven	ot W	69- 56			

Boys' bowling falls one pin short at sectionals

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

Fans scream and parents are on their feet. Players stare down the scoreboard with sheer intensity. This is not the setting of a basketball game, but of another winter sport that is growing in numbers all over both Indiana and the United States. For the boys' and girls' varsity bowling teams, bowling is not a social activity, but a competitive sport.

From early November to the middle of February, the boys' team competes against seventeen other high school bowling teams for the city championship. Indiana high school bowling powers such as Snider, Bishop Dwenger and Elmhurst make this no easy task.

"We are in one of the toughest conferences in the state," Tanner Crandall (10) said. "This year, [our conference] had two teams go to state, something that is uncommon for a conference."

Last year, the team finished third at sectionals and sixth at regionals. This year, losing just one bowler to graduation, the team looked to improve on their finish.

The team was competitive throughout the regular season, but failed to make regionals, finishing sixth at sectionals. The team came just one pin short of leap-frogging past Woodlan and making regionals.

"It was pretty disappointing to have our season end like that considering how well we did the in regular season," Crandall said.

One of the high points of the season was Daniel Kiefer's (11) perfect game. Kiefer bowled a perfect 300 game, consisting of twelve strikes in a row, in the city championships, the only player to do so.

"After I got the eleventh strike I was so nervous," Kiefer said. "With all the people watching I just wanted to get the last strike and get it over with."

Despite sharing time on both the varsity and junior varsity team and having only two years of bowling experience, Kiefer's optimism about next year has increased.

"I really want to get my [188 pin average up for sure]," Kiefer said. "Next year should be fun."

Tanner Crandall (10), the brother of Riley Crandall ('08), who was arguably the best bowler to ever bowl for the Spartans, had the second-highest average score per game in all of northern Indiana this season. Crandall averaged 217 pins per game.

"For my first year on the bowling team, I really thought I had a good season, plus, being the leader of the team was pretty great, too," Tanner said.

Unlike the boys' team, the girls lost significant team members from last year's squad. Shelby Pequinot (10), who led the team with a 221 pin average in last year's sectionals, is now bowling for South Side High School. However, Sara Patterson (9) stepped up and led this year's team in pin average, averaging 172 pins per game this season.

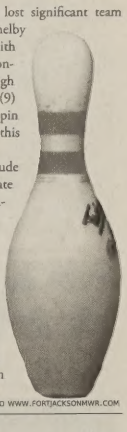


PHOTO WWW.FORTJACKSONMWR.COM

"She always had a positive attitude even when we did not do so well," Kate Pelsinski (9), who had the second highest pin average on the team this season, said. "To be a freshman and be able to do that is pretty impressive."

The girls' team failed to make regionals this year, finishing eighth in sectionals. Despite the early end to the season, there is much optimism for next season.

"Next season will be better with all the underclassman who will be much more experienced," Pelsinski said.

Work going on behind the scenes of athletic events

Updegrove puts together plans that pull together extracurricular games, matches

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

Nearly every student is well aware of Spartan sports. Every day, athletic events are announced over the public address system or on HHS On Demand, the school video announcements. Every football, basketball and baseball game is broadcast over the radio on the school's radio station. What most students do not know is exactly how all of the athletic events are made possible.

Athletic Director Joe Updegrove is the man who makes every athletic event possible. A common belief about an athletic director is that they only oversee the athletic teams at their individual schools. However, Updegrove does more than just showing up and being another fan at sporting events. Some of the most routine things on his agenda are things any normal student would not have a clue existed.

"Watching the games is my favorite part of this job."
JOE UPDEGROVE
Athletic Director

"The first thing I do when I get to my office each morning is check my e-mail. I get e-mail from nearly everyone: coaches who post results, officials, other athletic directors," Updegrove said. "Today I had 32 e-mails in my inbox, which is lower than usual."

Checking e-mail is just the first thing scheduled for a long day in the athletic office. Some other mail Updegrove receives includes letters from other schools requesting to remain scheduled for athletic events. Additionally, letters come from various local groups requesting to use the school's facilities.

Making contracts with other schools is another difficult process that is Updegrove's responsibility. If the school already has an existing or soon-expiring contract, Updegrove will usually renew the contract if the other school agrees. Most contracts agreed upon with other schools last for four years before a renewal is needed. Some of the athletic teams, such as the volleyball team, have their schedule set up to continue until the 2012 season. Dropping a school from the schedule is not common, although it does occur.

"The only time we drop a school off any schedule is if either the other athletic director or myself contacts each other and [we] agree mutually," Updegrove said. "Usually it is because the competition between the two teams is no longer there."

In the past few years, the boys' varsity tennis team dropped Snider, the boys' varsity basketball team dropped Whitko and the former girls' varsity soccer coach, Jason Lee, was pushing to drop Bishop Luers and Northrop from their schedule.

Updegrove also has to make time to check the condition of team uniforms, reschedule postponed games, update the banners in the gyms and set up award nights. Since Dance Marathon ended two weekends ago, he is also figuring out how to distribute the money to all the athletic teams.

When it comes to pep sessions, Updegrove has little control over what goes on. Instead, Student Government is in charge. For the school's last pep session, Updegrove wanted to make sure certain things happened to his liking.

"I told [student government] that they should make sure to recognize all the teams as evenly as possible," Updegrove said. "Overall, I thought they did a great job with it."

Updegrove also attempts to make everything he does is as fair as possible. At awards nights, he always wants to make sure that each athlete is given his or her fifteen minutes of fame. After all of this work, Updegrove still finds a way to attend as many sporting events as possible.

"Watching the games is my favorite part of this job," Updegrove said. "Seeing all the kids having fun and enjoying the sport is what makes me love this job."

With all the work Updegrove has put into the Spartan athletic program, it is no wonder that sports and spirit around the school are flourishing. With the continued success of the teams and athletes alike, it won't be uncommon to find the hard-working Updegrove on the sidelines cheering the Spartans on to victory.

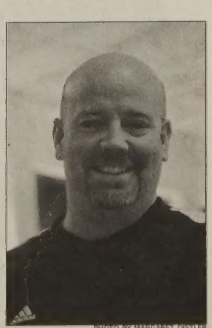


PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Updegrove serves his second year as the center of coordinating all sporting events.

Recalling all those times on the court

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

It has been a week since I played my last basketball game for Homestead and I am not going to lie; it's been tough. I knew my final season would go by fast, but whatever I did, however much I wished, I could not slow down time. And now that I am done lacing up my shoes for the blue and gold, I realize that I am not going to miss the games, but rather the little things that I did everyday dealing with the game I love.

I am going to miss digging in my car for a dollar so I can get a Powerade before practice. I am going to miss the look of my locker, trashed with wrappers and bottles that I never threw away throughout the season. I am going to miss the smell of my practice uniform, which usually went unwashed for days at a time. I am going to miss stretching with the team, making fun at each player's relationship, and making up stretches like the full-body stretch on the fly.

I am going to miss the guard-forward drills from practice because, being a forward, I knew I had the easier 15 minutes to endure. I won't miss the zigzag drill, though, because that one was undoubtedly the worst drill ever. I am going to miss the stories and sayings that Doc would tell us seemingly every day. Although some didn't make sense at the time, he always found a way to tie the moral of the story into the game of basketball. I am going to miss the team dinners, where the team would get together and "grub" until we couldn't move. It was then that we would watch basketball, play Xbox, or film projects for Spanish class. I am going to miss being convinced to announce to the whole school that I am returning for "one more year," a la Tim Tebow of the Florida Gators.

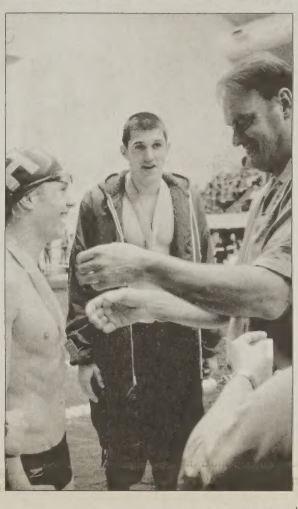
I am going to miss driving Jay Curry (11) and Albert Jennings (11) home every day after practice, discussing things like music, girls, basketball or what flavor ICEE was at Burger King at the time. I am going to miss quoting Will Ferrell movies with Dustin Durnell (11). I am going to miss listening to Wes Ring's (11) extraordinary knowledge of rap music. I am going to miss Andy Phillippe (11) threatening to "whoop me" everyday, even though everyone on the team knew he would never be able to do that.

I am going to miss going to Evan Pyle's (11) house for chicken wings and his mom's homemade milkshakes. I am going to miss the whistling nose of Evan Rhoades (10), even though it was more annoying than his dominance at NCAA Basketball '09. I am going to miss Drew Sery's (10) lack of a strong vocabulary. I am going to miss Zach Terrell's (9) confidence on and off the court, but I won't miss his puke all over my right arm. I am going to miss the "gang symbols" Mike Bradley (12) would throw up after hitting a three-pointer. And, of course, I will miss huddling around Rodney's jersey before every game and playing with him in my heart.

You see, as our high school careers come to an end, we don't remember the big things like wins, losses, and stats. We cling to the little things that made each and every day with our teammates something to remember. Every single day, I wish I could actually come back for one more year, but I know greater things await me in the future. I just hope zigzag drills are not involved.

"We gave it EVERYTHING"

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER



Top: Approaching a turn, Peter Rondot (12) looks ahead to the wall in the 500 freestyle. Left: Blake Johnson (10) watches as teammate, Anderson Whipp (12), grins to receive his eighth place medal for the medley relay. Bottom Left: Rafal Swaitkowski (12) swims in the 100 breaststroke in prelims on Friday. Bottom Right: Nick Jones (12), Coach Chad Englehart and Coach Candy Laux cheer for Peter Rondot in the 500 freestyle prelims.

Boys' swim places seventh at state, lower than expected

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

After supporting the girls' team in their final competition covered in paint, the boys' varsity swim team had a state title of their own to compete for.

Prior to the team's closing meet, practices became quite different. Rather than swimming extensive lengths, the team trained using an exercise called tapering.

"Tapering is a complete change in training. We do less [sic] yards in practice, but they are all a lot faster. This helps you go faster in the end of the year," Peter Rondot (12) said.

Although tapering requires less distance from the swimmers, many agree that it is much more difficult.

"I think tapering is the hardest part of the whole season. It's all sprint sets, all out and usually no breathing. It's pretty rigorous," Ian Tesch (12) said.

After those final weeks of tapering, the big date arrived. On Feb. 27, the boys hopped a bus from school at 8:45 a.m. and traveled down to Indianapolis to the IUPUI Natatorium where the state meet was held.

"As a senior, the way down to state was a little nerve-wracking. We were the leaders this year, so that was a bit of a burden, but we knew we just needed to go out and have fun," Tesch said.

The team had several placers in the meet. Blake Johnson (10) placed 5th in the 100-meter butterfly, Nick Jones (12) placed 6th in the 100-meter backstroke, Rondot placed 8th in the 500-meter freestyle and Anderson Whipp (12) placed 16th in the 200-meter individual medley and 13th in the 100-meter freestyle. The medley relay, consisting of Jones, Whipp, Tesch and Blake Johnson, placed 8th, the 200-meter freestyle relay, consisting of Jones, Whipp, Rondot and Tesch placed 7th, and the 400-meter freestyle relay, consisting of Rondot, Jones, Logan Johnson (10) and Blake Johnson) placed 13th. As a whole, the team concluded their season by placing 7th in the state.

"I think we gave it all we had. Most of us didn't have our fastest times, but we could all look each other in the eyes after the meet and know we gave it everything," Tesch said.

"For me, state was kind of a disappointment. I was unhappy with our teams final placing. I also thought about how my high school swimming career was over," Rondot said.

However, Rondot's swimming career is not over forever. Rondot, along with Tesch and Whipp, plan to take their swimming skills to college pools. Tesch plans to attend IUPUI next year, but neither of the other boys have made a final decision yet. Rondot and Whipp are both looking at Michigan State University to continue their swimming careers. Rondot is also looking at Purdue University and Eastern Michigan University. Whipp is considering swimming for Grand Valley State University next year as well.

"I'm not really sure what made me want to continue this sport in college," Rondot said. "But I know I'm not ready to be done with swimming yet."

Although the swim season is over for the boys, some look forward to swimming in college while others prepare to improve upon their finish during next year's season.

Student athletes aid Special Olympics

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

Athletes are given a special gift, not just to use, but to help others that are less fortunate with their athletic skills. Currently, a few varsity athletes are using their athletic skills and experience to teach basketball to athletes participating in the Special Olympics, an event created to help people with intellectual disabilities develop self-confidence, social skills and a sense of personal accomplishment.

Special Olympics participants include current students, including Austin Hamman (12) and former students including Chris Bly ('05). The program is run by girls' assistant basketball coach Todd German and events take place every Wednesday at the Ash Center.

Girls' varsity basketball player Terraysha Gordon (11) helps out with Special Olympics in her area of expertise.

"Mr. German and I run drills and teach fundamentals for basketball. The kids are really smart and they love doing the drills," Gordon said. "They work really hard. It's really fun and rewarding to work with them."

After the athletes learn the drills and fundamentals of basketball, they will occasionally play games against other teams. For example, they played other basketball players from the Huntington area two weeks ago and will play another game on March 18 at the Ash Center.

German's daughters Katie German (11) and Rachel German ('08) are also involved with the program.

"I helped with the track and field events and had so much fun last year. It was a really good experience and I'm planning on doing it again this year," Katie said. "[Rachel] and I also helped with the parade and that was fun too. [The parade] is at the end of the school year at the Three Rivers Festival parade."

At the track and field event, the athletes will compete in each event. After each event, they get to stand on a podium in the spots of what places they receive. The athletes also get trophies and medals for their participation and placings.

Hamman participates in basketball and does the shot put, 40-yard dash and long jump in the track and field events. He has participated in Special Olympics for five years.

"It is fun, and I like to be there," Hamman said. "My favorite event is the shot put and I am pretty good at it. I also like the softball throw."

Lori Hamman, Austin's mother, realizes the time spent by the volunteers on the program.

"The people that volunteer to help with Special Olympics have time and compassion that is so appreciated. These kids love Special Olympics; they don't care if they come in first or last place. They are just glad that there are people that take time to help them," Lori Hamman said. "It opens up opportunities for these kids that otherwise might not be there. It's the compassion these people have to help out. Austin has all of his medals hanging up in his room from over the years."

Varsity athlete or not, the volunteers deserve credit for giving every person the opportunity to be a premier athlete. Volunteers give their precious time, while the athletes give their best effort. The Special Olympics program allows anyone to feel like a superstar athlete and allows these athletes to be proud of their accomplishments as they stand on the podium.

WORLD WINNERS

2009 Winter World Games in Boise, Idaho was host to many gold medalists from Indiana.

Bobby Hilbert: Clark County
Snowshoeing
1st place in the 200 meter race

Sandi Thomas: Delaware County
Alpine Skiing
1st Place in the 10 meter Walk, Alpine Glide and Alpine-Super Glide

Randy Hurt: Marion County
Speed Skating
1st place in the 500 meter, 777 meter, and 1,000 meter races

Katrina Stamper: Johnson County
Figure Skating
1st place in Singles Competition

Left: Providing comic relief for the audience, Michael Breuning (12) performs his comedy act during the Variety Show on Thursday evening. Below: Part of a trio, Sonya Joseph (11) performs "Dhoom Tana" for her Variety Show act.

Above: Dressed as senior citizens for the spirit day, Hali Bickford (12) and Jenna Clark (12) talk after lunch on Tuesday. Right: Folding a MORP shirt, student government member Anuj Khemka (10) works the back room.

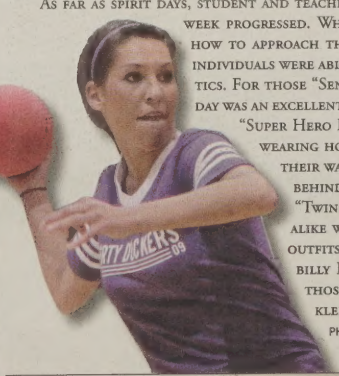
JUST BECAUSE 2009

A WEEK IN PHOTOS

Months ago, Just Because Week was just another topic on the Student Government tuesday meeting agenda. This past week, though, the ideas became reality as students were encouraged to celebrate a week of fun events. Despite the low turnout at Moe's on Monday night, students proved their support of Just Because Week by their impressive attendance at the events later in the week. The annual Dirty Duckers dodgeball tournament between the junior and senior girls brought friends and family members to the gym to cheer on their favorite six-player team Wednesday night. For the Variety Show on Thursday evening, four emcees led the audience members through the show's 20 acts. Tonight, the much anticipated MORP school dance with CarnEvil themed decorations will be held at Hilger's Place from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

As far as spirit days, student and teacher participation gained momentum as the week progressed. While many students were confused about how to approach the "Retro Sweatshirt Day," a handful of individuals were able to salvage old tops from their dusty attics. For those "Senior Citizens" of the student body, Tuesday was an excellent opportunity to imitate older, wiser folk. "Super Hero Day" brought many laughs as individuals wearing homemade or store bought costumes made their way through the day with their capes close behind. Proving to be twice as nice, Thursday's "Twin Day" presented students and teachers alike with the challenge of creating identical outfits to their temporary twins. Today's "Hillybilly Racing Day" brought toothless smiles as those clad in overalls and plaid shirts sprinkled the hallways during passing periods.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, SUZIE REECER



Above: During the first round of Dirty Duckers, Claire Lundergan (12), Morgan Beard (12) and Christy Tatara (12) run to the dodgeballs after the whistle is blown. Right: Looking at her purchase, Gabi Lamott (9) shows Katie Fyfe (9) her new MORP shirt.

Top: Preparing to throw the dodgeball, Jordan Weber (11) looks to her junior competitors. Above: Showing off their "Super Hero Day" costumes, student government members pose for a group picture. Left: The five members of Best Friend Basses play after the Variety Show intermission.

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 13 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Friday, March 27, 2009

Smith urges fiscal reform at Assembly

State legislator applauds trip to capitol as 'pretty important step'

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Amidst a room full of Southwest Allen County Schools administrators, school board members, students and parents, state Sen. Luke Kenley name-dropped Indiana University's current head coach. The topic at hand, however, was not basketball.

"You're almost like Tom Crean," Kenley said, addressing SACS superintendent Brian Smith, "pacing up and down the sidelines, trying to make something happen."

Smith, whose district faces $1.2 million in budgets cuts even if a referendum is renewed in April, channeled his inner Crean on Wednesday, March 11. He shuttled 15 SACS residents to the capitol building in Indianapolis in hopes of sending a clear message — or, in the words of Kenley, trying to make something happen.

The superintendent's aim was to open legislators' eyes to the increasing gap among per-pupil funding at state schools. Throughout the day, Smith argued to lawmakers that the current fiscal formula should be revised to include both performance and efficiency factors.

"We're not looking for more money. We're trying to pull that formula together so that there is not such disparity," he said during a conference with Kenley, State Sen. David Long and State Rep. Jeff Espich.

All three legislators that the superintendent convened with commended his efforts to modify the equation, but questioned how to implement such change.

"We think it's a good idea," Kenley said. "The question is, is it an advanceable idea?"

> "We believe in economics in terms of education delivery as much as we can, and other districts should deliver, too."
>
> **JOHN BLOOM**
> SACS School Board President

Currently, the state's education funding formula grants Southwest Allen County Schools a total of $5,610 per student. Of that sum, $23 per pupil is contributed by Title I funds, state money primarily determined by a district's free and reduced lunch counts. This year, Indiana will provide its highest-funded school corporation, Gary Community Schools, with $9,546 per student, an amount comprised of Title I funds exceeding $700 per student.

Such a discrepancy, SACS School Board president John Bloom explained, cannot be tolerated.

"We believe in economics in terms of education delivery as much as we can," Bloom said, "and other districts should deliver, too."

According to Long, finding a middle ground for the funding woes is politics as usual. Referencing the predominantly Democratic Indiana House of Representatives, he asserted that proffering city districts is "all they care about right now."

"The reality is [that] urban schools have driven a great deal of funding," Espich said, alluding

Capitol Trip, continued on 2a

PUBLICATION IN PERIL

Yearbook staff 'determined' to keep Retrospect in print

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

In a worrisome time of recession, funding is sorely missed. While the economic sphere's financial woes seem to have benefited a select few and may well be on the rise, the far-reaching hands of the recession have permeated all aspects of society, robbing the Retrospect publication of critical funds. With the school system in need of a referendum and the budget being systematically tightened, this prompts the question concerning how yearbook funds are so low.

"It costs tens of thousands of dollars to make our school's yearbook, and over the past few years, not enough fundraising was done to cover these

Yearbook, continued on 2a

> "It's hard to find sponsors. Most places we call turn us down..."
>
> **ALEX BUEKER (11)**
> Retrospect Staff Member

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

Retrospect staff members Kirsten Wehling (11), Dheevna Reddy (12) and Jenny Green (12) sell Nelson's chicken to a College Fair attendee. Due to limited funds, the publication has resorted to fundraising as a way to gain the support of students.

Teachers extend classrooms online

English teacher uses forum as outlet for additional class discussion, collaboration

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

As advancements in technology are made, teachers can improve the way they teach. From the projectors that aid teachers during in class presentations to the calculators that have revolutionized the field of mathematics, the "Computer Age" is upon us. Therefore, it is only logical that teachers would begin to utilize the computer, or, more specifically, the internet, in their teaching techniques. Although the school website has been available

Digital, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY KYLE DOLFUSS

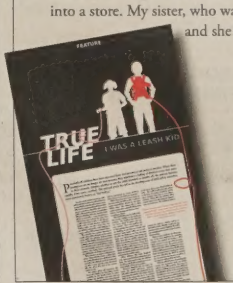
Math teacher Junior Stailey explains a textbook homework answer to pupils. Stailey posts video downloads of his daily lessons online.

DIGITAL TRAIL

Stailey
Academics >
Math >
Mr. Stailey >
Algebra 2 Video Lessons or Trig Video Lessons

Hill
Academics >
English >
Mr. Hill >
AP Forum

> "My family and I were in Disneyland and I was on my leash. By now, I had learned how to take off the leash, so when my parents weren't watching, I undid the loop around my wrist and ran off into a store. My sister, who was also on a leash, watched me go and she was the one who ratted me out."
>
> KATHRYN PETERS (10)



FORMER "LEASH KIDS" SHARE THEIR STORIES & OPINIONS ON PAGE 8A.

Dancers capture ninth state title

Varsity team defends reign on lyrical category

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

While most students were stumbling out of bed after a late night at MORP, members of the dance team were bouncing out of their hotel beds at the crack of dawn on Saturday, March 14, ready to take on a full day of dancing at the 15th annual Indiana High School Dance Team Association (IHSDTA) State Finals at Lawrence North High school near Indianapolis.

The varsity dance team, comprised of 19 members, competed in four types of dances at the state finals: jazz, pom, hip hop and, to defend their state title, lyrical. After training together as a team since last spring, state offered the team one final chance to put their hard work to use, and because the final few weeks

IHSDTA, continued on 2a

1 elite LYRICAL
2 elite JAZZ
4 elite POM
6 elite HIP HOP

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Dancers perform in the lyrical division to Emmy Rossum's "Slow Me Down."

BRIEFS

JCL STATE CONVENTION
From March 13 to 14, JCL attended the State Convention, where students competed against peers from other schools in contests ranging from graphic arts to academic testing. Homestead won the sweepstakes award in the small school division, while Ravi Vemula (11) and Saurabh Sharma (9) were elected to the state positions of parliamentarian and vice president.

SPARTAN MENTOR PROGRAM INTERVIEWS
Interviews are currently being scheduled for participation in the Spartan Mentor Program (SMP). The job of mentors is to advise incoming freshmen, and the purpose of the interviews is to determine whether potential mentors will be effective in doing so. Applicants will be informed of the results after all potential mentors have been interviewed.

ACADEMIC SUPER BOWL
The Academic Super Bowl team recently tied for first with Carroll High School at the Conference competition. The social studies team consisting of juniors Kelly Miller, Darlene Kim, Joey DeRosa, Rafal Swiatkowski and Sydney Brown scored well, placing first in their category.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Speech and Debate
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Obamamadness, Ed Board, Stem Cells
PAGE 4A, Life: Geocaching, West Virginia Mission Trip
PAGE 5A, Life: Cotillion, Scribe Launch, Staycations in Paradise
PAGE 6A, Sports: Girls' and Boys' Lacrosse, March Madness, Softball
PAGE 7A, Sports: Baseball Trip to Tennessee, Full Court Press
PAGE 8A, Feature: **True Life: I Was a Leash Kid**

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Both Emily Seward (left) and Shelby Padgett (top) are juniors who earned a trip to the state competition, arriving in Indianapolis the night of Homestead's annual MORP dance. Instead, 20 JV dancers held their own 'MORP' in a hotel room.

Dance team upholds eight years of lyrical success

DANCE
CONTINUED FROM 1A

going into state were devoted to making changes to their dances rather than cleaning them, nerves were running high.

"I was really excited and a little nervous going into state," Amanda Bird (12), varsity team captain, said. "We've had an 8 year record of first place in lyrical, and I didn't want to break that streak."

However, the team managed to pull off solid performances in all four of their elite category dances, earning them sixth place in the highly competitive hip hop and pom categories: a very reputable second place in jazz, and first place in the elite lyrical category, making them state champions for the ninth consecutive year.

"We had a good emotional performance in lyrical," Leah Stupeck, varsity coach, said. "However, with jazz I was very pleased because it was the first time the dance was preformed, and it was intended to be preformed powerful, sharp, staccato and joyfully. We placed exactly where I would have expected us to place with our performance."

The junior varsity dance team of 20 girls also competed at state and placed third in jazz. A high energy pom performance earned the team second place, making it the first time that the JV dance team has ever placed that high in the pom category.

Although the obvious objective for the dancers at state is to place as well as possible, traditions have developed over the many years the dance team has gone to state that add to the excitement of the weekend.

After dressing with team spirit all week, the teams assembled in the area inside of door four on Friday after school for the send-off to state. Gifts to secret pals were exchanged, "ghetto names" were given to the members of the hip hop team, goody bags with food, glow sticks, glasses and other treats were given to each girl, as were individually embroidered blankets with the team member's names on them before the buses were loaded and sent to Indianapolis.

After traveling for two hours, the girls met members from rival dance team Lake Central for a pasta dinner at the school and were given some time to bond and create new friendships.

While the rest of the school was celebrating the end of "Just Because" week with MORP, the dance team members had to miss out on this dance because of the state competition. However, even though some girls were initially upset at having to skip the dance, the bond of the team and the drive to continue the tradition of state was far more important in the end.

"Our team is a really strong group of girls, and we've developed great friendships," Bailey Brigman (10), JV captain, said. "Although MORP is fun, I wasn't too upset at missing it because I knew we'd have so much fun at state. We made our own 'dance team MORP' in our room and filled it with all 20 girls from the [JV] team."

"Our motto this year has been 'team, unity, varsity,'" Stupeck said. "All the trials the team went through so close to state and how they pulled together to have a great performance really reflected that motto."

With another successful dance season in the books, the girls of the team have not only their trophies and placements by which they can remember the season, but also the more important assets of the memories and friendships they have created.

Speech team garners mixed results

Students dabble in various events at group's final competitive showing in Indianapolis

BY PRIYA PARIKH
WRITER

Well-prepared and successful throughout their season, the speech team went to North Central High School in Indianapolis on March 20th through the 21st for the state competition. With Tarun Jain (12) making his way to the final rounds, the team felt they did well, considering their tough competitors.

"I feel I competed well," Jain, national qualifier in the U.S. Extemporaneous event, said.

Having participated in this event for most of his high school career, Jain has much experience going into the national competition; however, his anticipation concerning the competition he will face has kept him studying diligently.

"I'm looking forward to nationals," Jain said. "I plan to read over some more articles to prepare."

At the state competition, students participated in a variety of events. Jain doubled in Impromptu and U.S Extemporaneous while Jim Romelfanger (12), Yogesh Joanna (12) and Abhishek Chintapalli (11) competed in International Extemporaneous. In addition, Clayton Knappenberger (10) participated in Discussion, and Priya Parikh (9) represented Homestead in Original Oratory. In each of these events, three preliminary rounds were conducted, along with two semifinal rounds (A and B) and a final round.

Depending on the student and the event, the amount of time spent and the type of preparation required varied as well. For example, in the Impromptu event, lengthy preparation cannot be conducted apart from practice because the topic on which the student will be speaking is unknown until 30 seconds before the speech is presented.

In the Extemporaneous event, preparation includes staying informed and educated on current issues, gathering main points and general information. On the other hand, for Original Oratory, an entire speech is prepared and practiced to perfection before it is presented to judges.

> "I prepared by doing a lot of research the week before the competition, and I was up really late the night before because I had to prepare for twelve bills."
>
> **CLAYTON KNAPPENBERGER (10)**
> Speech and Debate Team Member

Although the state competition was the final meet in this year's speech season, the debate team wrapped up their season last month with a successful showing at Kokomo High School.

"I think the team did pretty well," Joe Wolter, assistant speech and debate coach, said. "They practiced and knew their material."

The debate team's state competition also included a variety of events of which students took advanage, including Congress, in which Knappenberger competed, the Lincoln Douglass Debate, in which Chintapalli competed, and Public Forum, in which partners Joy Tuhen (11) and Laura Zeng (9), Rhys Weber (9) and Connor Barnes (9), and Varsha Venkat (9) and Jessica Goodman (9) participated.

"I did well as I could have expected to have done, and I did the best that I could, considering that this was my first year doing this," Knappenberger, debate team finalist, said. "I prepared by doing a lot of research the week before the competition, and I was up really late the night before because I had to prepare for twelve bills."

Like members of the speech team, debate team members found prior competition experience very beneficial as well.

"I was going against the best debaters at state, but I think I just needed a couple years of experience since that was my second meet," Chintapalli said. "I did prepare a couple days before the competition, though."

Reflecting on their results at both the speech and debate competitions, members have found encouragement in the experience they have gained this year, building anticipation for next year's season as well.

"I am looking forward to next year, and I hear a lot of the students are coming back again so that will be good," stated Wolter. "The team will definitely be stronger with one more year of experience under their belt."

DIGITAL
CONTINUED FROM 1A

for teachers to post assignments, a handful of teachers have pushed the boundary further, revolutionizing the process.

For instance, Scott Hill, English teacher, is one of the several teachers to institute an online forum in which students can anonymously post ideas on the school website. Although Hill learned this technique from another teacher, fellow English teacher Howard Jankowski, he has been pondering the idea for quite some time.

"I've had the idea before," Hill said. "I've had classroom blogs before, but my problem with that is that it was one-sided. I was the only one posting, and students didn't really have the opportunity to participate in the dialogue. I had always wanted to have a message board, but frankly, I wasn't aware that we had this capability. Jankowski shared the idea, and I've only had [the forum] for about two weeks."

Many students, too timid to offer ideas in class, enjoy the forum—especially because it is anonymous—and visit it regularly. Even though Hill occasionally requires students to post information, many visit the site voluntarily.

"I think [the forum is] a cool variation on a typical class discussion," Joey DeRosa (11) said. "People seem less reluctant to share their ideas online behind a mask of anonymity."

Celia Grundman (11) is another avid poster on Hill's online forum. She shares DeRosa's view that it is very beneficial to students.

"It's a useful tool for extended class discussions, along with some randomness," Grundman said. "We also use aliases, which allows for more objectivity. The most useful aspect of the forum is the posting of page numbers and references, which saves time when writing essays."

There are seemingly zero downsides to this technological development because, according to Hill, it was very easy to set up. An enthusiast of the whole concept, Hill believes that online forums would be beneficial for other teachers to adopt as well, reasoning that it is a method that appeals to student interests.

PHOTO BY KYLE GOLFUS

"I think [more teachers creating online forums] would be great because it's closer to what students do already when they're at home, as far as online communities," Hill said. "I've participated in message boards for the past 14 years, so I know that it's fun; it's a different kind of friendship that you can make on there that I think is really relevant to today's students."

There are other teachers throughout the school who use forums as well, like Jankowski and math teacher Junior Stailey; however, the number of educators utilizing this teaching method is still a small fraction of the staff. Supporting Hill's assertions, many students believe that it would be beneficial for teachers to adopt online forums, too; however, some think that it should be limited to certain subjects.

"I think it's a cool idea, especially if there is a lot of stuff worth discussing," DeRosa said. "But I can't ever see myself discussing math online."

CAPITOL TRIP
CONTINUED FROM 1A

to his fellow representatives across the aisle, who pushed for the complexity index in 2004 that Smith is fighting against today. "You've got to tell your story. You've got to fight on all levels."

He later urged that organizations should be sought to research how much it costs to educate a disadvantaged pupil. When a SACS mother suggested that such indigent students face obstacles "before they even walk out the door in the morning," Espich flung his hands in the air and rose for the door.

The hourlong legislative meetings, however, were not short on persiflage. Espich lightheartedly grumbled about being hungry for lunch, while Kenley jokingly asked his audience to "lock the door" when he was prompted to discuss the national economy.

"The truth is, there's not much fairness and equity around here," Espich said, only to be laughingly retorted by Kenley, who remarked that "the fair was in August."

In the afternoon, Smith met with State Sen. Dillon, a formula correction advocate who the superintendent believed would be a "good ally" for his cause. Currently, Dillon is pushing for an efficiency factor that considers Category 1 funds, spending that directly affects classrooms.

"We are moving toward foundations for everybody," Dillon said.

Still, legislators were reluctant to pledge immediate action.

"Even in tough times, good little things can happen, but good big things can't," Espich said. "I'm sorry."

The referendum renewal vote, which could curtail the district's financial hardship if passed, will be held on Tuesday, April 21.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES WALTER

Top to bottom: Retrospect staff member Jenny Green (12) waits for customers while selling Nelson's chicken outside the school's front doors. The yearbook staff hoped to take advantage of foot traffic from the college fair held the same night in the cafeteria.

YEARBOOK
CONTINUED FROM 1A

extraordinary costs," Nikolette Lipsey (12), a member of the Retrospect staff, said. "This year, the Retrospect staff is determined and compelled not only to raise enough money for [this year's] book, but for the yearbooks of previous years."

Nevertheless, the pervasive recession may not be the sole aggressor of yearbook debt. Because publishing costs are sky-high and the skimpy budget is supplemented wholly by advertising and fundraising, the current crisis may have been festering for years.

"I do think the yearbook is underfunded," Alex Bueker (11), a member of the Retrospect staff, said. "It's hard to find sponsors; most places we call turn us down, and a couple agree to place an ad before changing their mind because they thought we were talking about the newspaper. We depend a lot on senior parent ads, but the number of parents that do that has decreased."

Agreeing with Bueker, Lipsey explains that the low funding reflects a lack of appreciation for the art of publication.

"The yearbook is certainly underfunded, as are many of the publications and arts of Homestead," Lipsey said. "It would certainly help to have more funding to work with so that publications students and staff would be free to create the best yearbook possible, without worries of debt and payments."

While Retrospect is clearly experiencing troubled times, the average student may be bemused as to how he or she can contribute to the publication.

"Any student at Homestead can easily support the yearbook by simply participating whenever possible," Lipsey said. "For instance, the Nelson's Chicken fundraiser, the Steak & Shake fundraiser and other yearbook-sponsored events are all inexpensive and fun ways to get the yearbook out of debt. Seniors can have their parents buy senior ads, too."

Although some may believe that Retrospect's financial woes are problems confined to its staff, it is clear that the yearbook is equally as important to students as it is to staffers.

"Yearbooks are invaluable to students because they give them the opportunity to reflect and look back on their high school years," Karen Trexer (10) said. "Through yearbooks, students can remember what they accomplished and who they were during high school."

All clubs are clearly undergoing economic struggles, but there may be dissension about which extracurricular is the neediest.

"The Retrospect is more affected because it is a high-quality book, and when the budget is lowered it will struggle to maintain the quality the school is accustomed to," Trexer said.

However, because additional fundraising is always an option, there is still light at the end of the tunnel for yearbook staffers.

"The budget problems affect Retrospect as much as they do other clubs," Lipsey said. "With the school-wide budget cuts, it really seems that it is now up to the students and staff to make do as best they can, and for the Retrospect, that means many hours of fund raising and advertising. I can only hope that in the future Homestead's creative institutions and clubs will not have to rely so heavily on the students to care for money problems."

OPINION

Obama's March Madness mistakes harbinger of economic outcome, 3a

page 3a
issue 13 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Funding Success

Stem Cell Research

Presidential Problems

Friday, March 27, 2009

New executive order: change we can agree on

National Institute of Health receives OK to manufacture new genetic lines of embryonic stem cells

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

For eight years the gates have been closed and locked for embryonic stem cell research. In one of his few pre-9/11 policies, former president George W. Bush restricted any federal funding for new embryonic stem cells. The national institute of health was restricted from funding any embryonic stem cell projects. Since federal funding held a large stake in this research, President Bush's actions essentially halted science.

Surprisingly, President Obama has acted not only within the interests of his campaign promises, but he has also done so efficiently with embryonic stem cell research. On March 9, 2009, Obama signed an executive order removing Bush's restrictions. This seems to be the first action taken by his administration that can receive little, if any, criticism by the average moderate.

Is it any surprise that this most agreeable action taken by his administration thus far involves zero budget increases? Obama's executive order simply removes the limits placed by Bush, but it does not increase funding; something his administration seems to be obsessed with. His administration has taken a break, even if it was for a day, from throwing up 12 and 15 figure spending budgets, as if money could be endlessly printed and borrowed with out consequence.

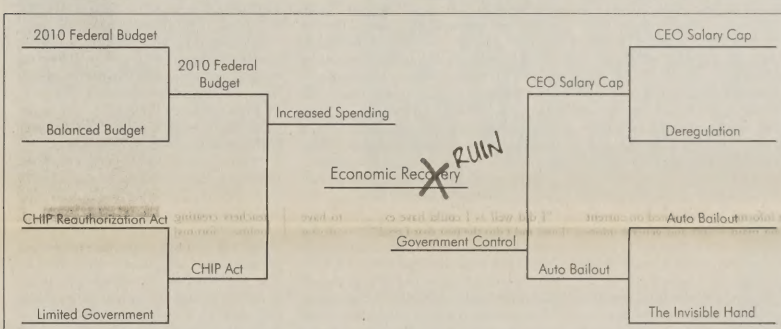
However, President Obama's executive order with embryonic stem cell research opens the doors of science and makes the line separating church and state very clear. While it is true that many political decisions may be underlined intrinsically with religious beliefs, the separation of church and state should remain a clear boundary in science. It is not the role of the government to inhibit the growth of science under a false choice between morals and science. Roe v. Wade allows mothers the choice to abort embryos; therefore, it can be transitively applied to embryonic stem cells, as these embryos are also used for the progression of genetic sciences. The court's position on abortion proves that embryos are not alive and do not have the natural right to life; therefore, science should be free to use them for stem cells.

PHOTO HASTENHOSPITAL.COM

During the eight years of remission, adult stem cells became a reality, these pluripotnent cells are formed out of the skin cells of a patient. While this discovery has allowed genetic science to progress, both types are needed for progress. Dougless Melton the chief of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute said that scientists agree that both adult and embryonic stem cells need to be aggressively pursued to solve important medical problems. Even if adult stem cells become more efficient that is a choice for scientists not the government.

Embryonic stem cell research is justified by the thousands waiting on treatments for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes and other incurable diseases, but also for the majority of Americans. In the battle for false morals regarding the natural rights of embryos, the government has forgotten that it cannot stand in the way of citizens and their families who are waiting for cures that seem only possible through stem cell research. It is equally unjust for a government to deny stem cell research and misrepresent the 61 percent majority of Americans who support it.

Obama's executive order is justified by the validity of stem cell research, but also in the government's maintenance of the separation of church and state. It can only be hoped that the president can be as logical and feasible in his economic policy as he has shown to be in his social policy.



OBAMADNESS

Presidential picks inaccurate for both economy, basketball

BY SUZIE REECER
PHOTO EDITOR

Around the country tonight many will be glued to the television, brackets in hand, hoping for their teams to be victorious in the regional semi finals of March Madness. Some have brackets that they filled out on their own, without the help of others, while others "ironically" have the exact same bracket as President Barack Obama.

In October 2008, Obama told ESPN's Andy Katz he would fill out an NCAA tournament bracket if he were elected. This was one of the few promises he kept from his time on the campaign trail.

On March 17th, the president's picks were revealed. In the history of our country, no president has ever gone this far. Maybe you were not surprised he did this, since he is the most advertised president since the days of George Washington. But where will he draw the line? It seems like he thinks he is still on the campaign trail, trying to gain popularity from the nation.

Why else would Mr. President be making an appearance on the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno?" Although, I am not sure it turned out to be the way he hoped. As Obama described his bowling abilities to Mr. Leno, he let one slip. President Obama said, "It's like—watching the Special Olympics or something," a hypocritical statement at best, considering his campaign website's mission to "build a world free of unnecessary barriers, stereotypes, and discrimination." Maybe he should be spending more time in Economics 101 instead of working on his late night comedy routine about Special Olympics.

In the same way that many Americans chose to indulge themselves in Barack Obama's March Madness picks, many are letting themselves become hypnotized by his New Deal. The president's bracket had twelve errors just after the first round. The economy is like March Madness, only, choosing Temple to beat Arizona takes the place of the stimulus plan. Temple was obviously not going to win and this stimulus plan is obviously not going to work. Just look at what happened with FDR and his New Deal.

Massive spending and government subsidization did not cure the high unemployment of the Great Depression nor did it allow the private sector to recover; instead, it deepened national debt and created a new cycle of unhealthy government dependency, the cost of giving the people a sense of false hope. Sound familiar?

You would think everyone would choose to learn from our past mistakes in this country, but apparently the iconoclastic and almighty Barack Obama is always right in some minds, no matter what the circumstances are: the economy, Jay Leno, or March Madness. I just hope that you didn't choose the same bracket as Mr. President.

Ed board asks can you pay for academic performance?

With added pressure from No Child Left Behind, school corporations are desperate to improve their test scores and performance indicators. But these days, academic performance is not the sole determinant of financial support.

Title I schools receive extra funding for any and every reason to improve "the academic achievement of the disadvantaged." In the Midwest, having a higher percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches can earn you up to $773 per student, translating into thousands more in a school's annual budget. In essence, poor schools get more money. That funding is spent on speakers, programs and additional resources to enhance the learning experience of these low-income students. But is that logical? If I give you a computer, does that mean you are going to study more? If you do not pay attention when the teacher is talking, are you going to listen when a speaker comes in? Probably not.

So what determines how you study, how much you study, and how much you care about school in general? Students are not motivated to achieve by the resources that additional funding provides, but rather by the ethics and values instilled by the student's family and environment.

For some students, school is just not a priority. Whether that is the result of poor parenting, shared mentalities among peers or extracurricular distractions, no amount of taxpayer-funded renovations is likely to reverse that. In fact, studies suggest the contrary. For every $2B increase in federal funding, there is actually a one point decrease in SAT scores. This is not to say that if you fund a school less, they will perform better, but rather that (with an R^2 factor of .45) no correlation exists between funding and academic success.

It has become habit to throw money at any problem to subdue our uneasiness; we need a smarter solution.

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
CHARLES WALTER

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
JOE HANAUER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

Jocelyn Craig (12) named Miss Congeniality at local cotillion, 5a

page 4a
issue 13 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Jocelyn Craig

Geocaching Adventures

Mission Trip Food Drive

Friday, March 27, 2009

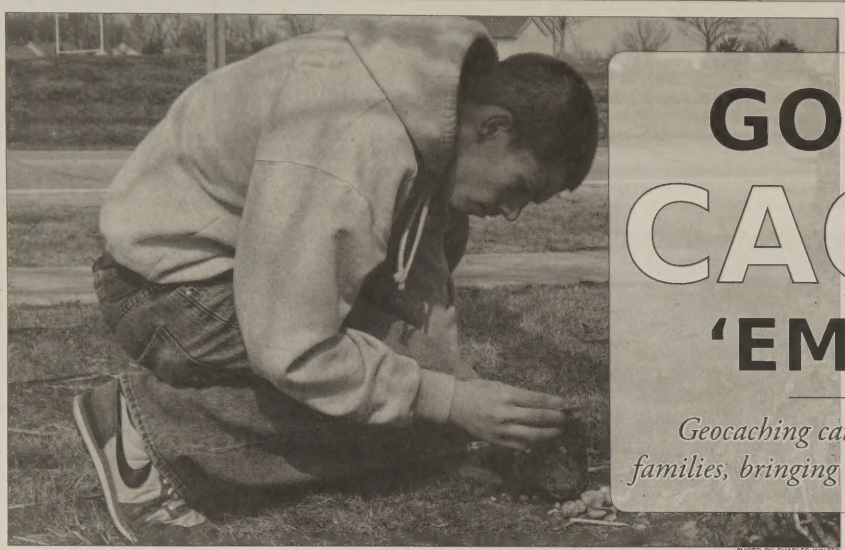


PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

GOTTA CACHE 'EM ALL

Geocaching catching attention of families, bringing technology to outdoors

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

Geocaching is a type of global treasure hunt that is getting more and more attention as spring comes to a close. It is a game in which a person hides a treasure in a public place like a park and puts its global position system (GPS) coordinates online so other "cachers" can go and search for the treasure.

There are over a dozen caches within a mile of Homestead. Local cachers here in Fort Wayne have pursed the sport in countries all over the world, including Canada and England.

"We haven't gone to too many interesting places, just [places] nearby. It's just neat to think that they have been there the whole time when I have driven by them daily," Erica Wurst (11) said.

"I went on a vacation in New Orleans, and we went to this building where we told the secretary a phrase that represented that we were geocachers, and she called down the head maintenance employee, who took us up to the roof of the building," Victoria Malooley, drama teacher, said. "[There] we opened up the cache, and there were lots of prizes and trackables. The coolest thing about the cache was the fact that it lead us to this building, where we were able to see a sky view of all of New Orleans. It was an amazing experience."

Anyone can participate in geocaching, as long as they have a GPS. Once a person has a GPS, an online search at www.geocaching.com will provide coordinates for caches in the search area. Along with the coordinates, there is often a description of the general area where the cache will be, and sometimes a hint to help find the cache. A cache can be as small as a penny or as big as a gallon container. Once the person has found the cache, inside they may find many trinkets from previous cachers. Along with these trinkets, there is a paper logbook. In this log, the people who have found the cache write their special caching name to verify that they have found that cache. Upon returning to their computer, they can sign an online log and www.geocaching.com will keep track of their finds.

There are many different types of caches. The most common cache is the traditional cache, consisting of a container and logbook. There are also more complex "multi-caches" that include a series of caches. In each cache, there is a clue that will lead to the final cache. Earthcaches are caches that point out significant features of the earth, so that the geocacher can learn something about geology while they are caching. Virtual caches also point out significant points of interest in an area, such as a monument or statue.

"My brother and I went last summer to some cemeteries and parks; it was a lot of fun," Camille Hunter (10) said.

In Indiana, there are a group of caches that make up what is called the "Indiana Spirit Quest." The caches take the cacher to different small historic cemeteries, highlighting a historical event or notable person who is buried there.

"Geocaching is a good activity that anyone can do, because it is completely free as long as you have a GPS. A lot of families are looking for activities to do to keep their kids entertained while being cheap, especially in these times. Geocaching is a great activity to get kids outside and moving," Malooley said.

When searching for a geocache, the cacher uses the latitude and longitude on a GPS to find the general area of a cache. This teaches cachers how to understand directions and a GPS.

When searching for a geocache, the cacher has to look both high and low. Caches are often small and blend in with the surroundings.

"Over spring break I am going to look for some more [caches] and there's also a few in Ohio where my cousins live that we want to go find," Wurst said.

Geocaching is a fun way to get to know an area because it lets you explore the outdoors and can sometimes teach you new things about an area. With warm weather and spring break approaching, students and teachers will have extra free time to try out geocaching, and might find that it is very fun and addicting.

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY GEOCACH

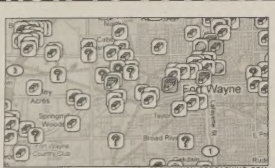


PHOTO FROM WWW.GEOCACHING.COM

Choose an interesting location and visit geocaching.com to find nearby caches.

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

Arrive near the site and use GPS tracking to help search the area for caches.

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

Search vicinity for caches, some blend in with the environment, until one is found.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MRS. MALOOLEY

Open the cache to see all the items inside. Then log the cache online.

St. Elizabeth youth group plans annual West Virginia trip to build homes

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Above: Michala Halstead (10) unloads donated boxes of macaroni and cheese that will be taken to a food pantry in West Virginia. Right: Julia Rozman (9) looks over a box of potatoes for rips and tears before packing.

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Hammers, nails, drills, screws, measuring tape, ladders, paint brushes, saws and band-aids are not on the average student's list of top ten items to bring on a spring break vacation. Trading in lawn chairs, sunglasses, lemonade, magazines, beaches and little umbrellas in drinks for tools is not a choice that everybody makes.

The teens belonging to the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church youth group travel on a mission trip to Pendleton County, West Virginia during spring break every year. There, they help out at a Habitat for Humanity volunteer center, engaging in many physically demanding tasks. The teens spend around 30 to 40 hours total working during the trip.

"I know that it's going to be a hard week and that it's not going to really be a vacation, but I'm excited to get there and get working," Tara Olivero (11) said. "I have been counting down the days for months."

Because Pendleton County is among the poorest counties in the United States, the teens witness American lives that are exceptionally different from their own lives of luxury. The teen's eyes are opened as they see first-hand the realities of poverty, learning valuable life lessons in the process. Greg Dague (10) recollected an experience he had during the first day of the trip last year as he walked along with friends.

"We saw a man who lived in a house the size of some people's bedrooms. This man was probably one of the happiest people I have ever seen, even though he had hardly anything," Dague said.

Apart from building houses at the Habitat for Humanity work sites, the teens concentrate on individual spiritual journeys as well. The group of 17 chaperones and 48 teens is accompanied by a Catholic priest who administers daily religious ceremonies.

"The West Virginia trip has affected my life tremendously. It made me realize that people need to help each other, because we are all here on this earth together. I also grew much closer to God during the West Virginia trip last year. I truly think that the West Virginia trip has made me a better person," Olivero said.

In addition to the daily manual labor and religious services the teens participate in, they also engage in a rigorous mountain climb and serve a community dinner where they are able to meet the Habitat for Humanity staff and the families they have benefited. Youth Minister Maggie Landrigan hopes this year results in satisfying success for all aspects of the trip.

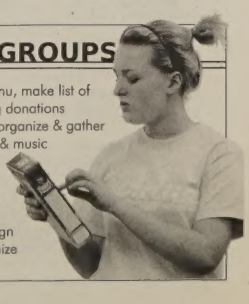
"My expectations are that we all learn to empty ourselves of selfishness, that we can humble ourselves by putting others first, that even though we had a long day of work and our muscles are sore we will still hold the door open for the person behind us, still have fun preparing dinner, still sing joyfully as we wash the dishes and clean the toilets, still wake up the next morning excited about the opportunity to help create a new home for a struggling family, to learn something new about another person on the trip and to be more like Jesus in everything that we do," Landrigan said.

Teens anxiously await the day of their departure, eagerly preparing themselves for the physical, emotional, spiritual and mental trials they will inevitably face on the memorable trip. Brian Cummiskey (12) is among the novices who have incessantly heard about the unforgettable trip.

"I feel ready for the challenge, because I know that the time I spend with and serving God always makes me feel the greatest," Cummiskey said. "I love being able to help people, especially the unfortunate, and this trip is for just that [purpose]."

PLANNING GROUPS

Food planners: create menu, make list of food items, plan brown bag donations
Prayer/Liturgy planners: organize & gather supplies for prayer services & music
Media planners: create "Official WV CD," take pictures for slideshow
Special Events planners: create group activities, design "Official WV T-shirt," organize nursing home talent show



New publication encourages student submissions, creativity

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

A new publication that allows students to share their creative work, Scribe collects student submissions in the categories of art and writing to publish in a book at the end of the year. Students in any grade can submit artwork, photographs, short stories, poems, etc, and their work will appear in the annual publication.

"Ideally it would be great if I could get a huge amount of people to hand in their work," Cam Kaminski (11), creator of Scribe, said. "I'm looking for creative people that are really into what they do. School isn't a real place to do that kind of stuff, so Scribe will help with that."

Last year, the Mirador dedicated a special section of the magazine to student submissions. Students were able to turn in their work to the publications staff, who would then choose which works would be in the issue that month. Since the Mirador has become an insert in the Spartana this year, it no longer features student submissions. Therefore, Scribe has been especially created to do just that: display student submissions.

All English teachers will have a special folder where students who are interested can submit their work for consideration. After two weeks, it will be collected and evaluated. For the most part, Kaminski will select the submissions that will be published. However, he will also ask other select individuals for additional input on certain pieces, so that a variety of work will be chosen. Kaminski plans to find a way to notify students with submissions as to whether their work was accepted into the book. Later in the year, students can then purchase a copy of the publication.

Heading the entire program, Kaminski wants all students to have a fair chance to have their artwork and writing published, expanding upon and modifying the Mirador's original idea.

> "Ideally it would be great if I could get a huge amount of people to hand in their work. I'm looking for creative people that are really into what they do."
>
> **CAM KAMINSKI (11)**
> Creator of Scribe

"Last year, I submitted a ton of work to the Mirador," Kaminski said. "I hardly got any accepted. I want people to have a fair chance and to be published."

Kaminski's idea to begin Scribe started last year during the second semester. By the beginning of this year, he was planning the specifics of starting this publication. When he first spoke to the Journalism teacher, Rod Kuhn, about the idea, Kuhn supported his efforts and agreed to be his sponsor.

"We wanted to keep publications in the publication program," Kuhn said. "The only thing we need was creativity. We wanted students to have an outlet to express their creativity."

Kuhn and Kaminski then wanted to introduce his proposal to the English Department. Kaminski went to the English Board meeting in November and presented his idea. Enjoying Kaminski's presentation about Scribe, the English teachers proudly displayed their support, creating specialty made Scribe t-shirts.

"In school, especially as a teacher, I often have an expectation for and from students that limits their creativity," Mark Hannon, English teacher, said. "As a teacher, I am expected to teach the curriculum and the Indiana State Standards. In doing so ,and in creating assignments that meet curriculum and State standards, I often have to limit student-creativity. I think that Scribe is an awesome outlet and opportunity for students to express and share things that are important to them."

Along with teacher advocates, students also feel that Scribe will be an enjoyable publication, allowing them to express their creativity and presenting a chance for their work to be published.

"I would submit my photos because capturing the best moments in life would inspire others to do the same and keeping the photos helps create clearer memories," Haley Bolinger (10) said. "Scribe will let me do that."

New take on spring break

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

I had big plans. This spring break, I had been hoping to accompany members of my church on a mission trip to Ecuador, traveling overseas and across the world for what was sure to be a life-changing experience. Although I have been on several smaller mission trips within the country, I have always wanted to travel abroad, witnessing to the world with the services I would provide for those in need. Unfortunately, however, as you may have detected in my past tense voice, my dreams of ministering to a third world country before graduation have been shot down. Rejected by my parents who deemed it unsafe for their daughter to be traveling overseas without their supervision, the plan I had so anxiously designed has been revised.

Instead of building houses, learning languages and singing praises, I will now be filling out scholarship applications and fighting to keep warm in the Indiana weather. My life will not be changed. My skin will not be tan, and besides the absence of school, my daily routine will not be altered. Overall, my "vacation" will consist of sleeping in and spending time with the friends I have left in town—a week far less adventurous than what I originally had in mind. Despite my despair, I have stumbled upon a realization far greater than my devastation.

Desiring to help a select group of people in a distant country, I blatantly overlooked the opportunity to help many more people closer to home. Reflecting on the timeless advice of Theodore Roosevelt: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are," I began to recognize that there are hundreds of people in our own country, state, city and even school who are desperately in need of help—perhaps even more so than those I would be aiding overseas.

When Americans think about missions, we tend to fixate on pictures of people in third world countries like Ecuador, conjuring up images of orphans without food or families without shelter. Because they look so helpless, we show compassion, sending our money and planning our mission trips. However, we fail to recognize that not everyone who is in need is visibly needy. Often those in need of the most help are those we reach past in our efforts to help someone else.

Changing the world is always easier to do from the outside in. We search relentlessly for solutions to global issues like poverty, hunger and world peace, yet we ignore the opportunity to make a difference in our own community. We are willing to go out of our way to lend helping hands to depraved people we have never met, yet when we are given the chance to help the elusive poor within the realm of our daily routines, compassion is far more difficult to conjure. Do not get me wrong. Generosity of any kind is noble; however, our perception of the word "missionary" is far too narrow-minded. Although living as a local missionary may not be as enthralling as embarking on a journey across the world or the country, it can be just as life-changing because, in the end, where we spend our time does not matter nearly as much as how we spend it. Sometimes plans change for a reason.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, SUZIE REECER

First debutante from school, Jocelyn Craig (12) selected by peers as "Miss Congeniality" at recent area cotillion

BY BRAD ADAMSON
WRITER

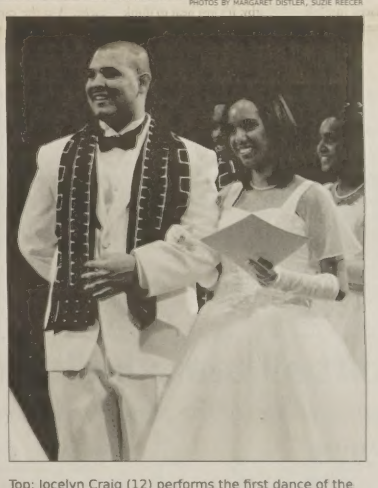
Dancing and donning white dresses, debutantes gathered in the Grand Wayne Center on the evening of March 14 for "An Affaire Extraordinaire." One of the most prestigious rites of passage for young African American women, this cotillion, or formal ball, was held to honor ladies who exhibit poise, grace, good citizenship and cultural appreciation while maintaining a high grade point average. A debutante, derived from the French word "debuter," meaning "to lead off," must also display leadership skills, distinguishing herself among her community and receiving nomination from a board or committee for her efforts.

Meeting all of these criteria, Jocelyn Craig (12) was the first Homestead student ever to be invited to attend this prestigious induction ball. Marking the successful completion of a preparation cycle that began last November, the cotillion required each debutante to attend weekly four-hour meetings, apply for two letters of recommendation and send in a copy of her high school transcript along with the letters. Recognized for her perfect attendance, Craig worked diligently to meet these standards, participating in several of the debutante workshops as well.

"We had to go to the city county building for a few things, talk about the mayor and watch the county commissioners," Craig said. "Every Saturday we were at Wayne High School in the gym to prepare for the dances, and other times it was just other workshops like [having] tea at this one church and [going] to worship together."

Along with lessons in etiquette, the debutantes learned four choreographed dances that prepared them for the final performance held on the night of the cotillion. Presented to a live audience consisting of each young lady's guests, the dances were designed to be performed professionally and harmoniously, yet in a fun and lively manner as the centerpiece of the whole ball.

At the conclusion of the final dance, scholarship awards were given to each of the debutantes for her work in the program as well as her academic achievements. Along with receiving awards for Perfect Attendance and Academic Excellence, Craig received an additional, unexpected honor—the Miss Congeniality Award, which is given to the young lady who demonstrates the most elegance and kindness.



Top: Jocelyn Craig (12) performs the first dance of the cotillion with her father (shown in far right of picture.) Above: Waiting patiently, Craig stands with her escort, Tyler Mendez, during the presentation of the awards. Below: Smiling to the crowd, Craig exits the dance floor after performing the choreographed debutante dance.

"I was absolutely shocked," Craig said. "I was convinced that I was not going to get [the award] because I was not the most popular girl because everyone knew each other from sports and cheerleading, and I don't do sports and I'm not a cheerleader. I've always tried to stay positive, so I guess my positivity and all that just really paid off."

Each debutante was also given a chance to socialize with the guests that she personally invited to share in her special day. Along with members of their immediate families, many ladies chose to invite people who they do not often get the chance to see, but who have made an impact on their lives.

"I talked to all of my guests," Craig said. "I had my grandma there, and my dad was there, [along with] some people that I haven't seen in awhile. One of the people that I had [invited] was the director of [the] Big Brothers, Big Sisters [program] in Northeastern Indiana. My "big sister" was there [as well]. We have been together for ten years."

Allowing the debutantes to meet other women like themselves, the cotillion was, overall, a grand induction ceremony encouraging them to become active members of society and providing them with funds to attend college.

"I went to [the cotillion to] gain more experience in leadership and community involvement," Craig said. "The scholarship money is kind of a bonus, but I don't really need it. I plan on going to law school, so I just figured that this will help me get connections because this was all run by professional women that are all administrators. I figured that that would help me get into law school and into Alpha Kappa Alpha, the [original] black sorority."

SPORTS

baseball heads to tennessee for friendly exhibition competition, 7a

page 6a
issue 13 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Softball

Girls' Tennis

Lacrosse

Friday, March 27, 2009

Amount of boys, girls involved in lacrosse club continues to increase

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

Over the last ten years, the sport of lacrosse has been growing in both popularity and participation. For the varsity girls' and boys' teams, there has been no exception to this trend. Since 2004, when the club sport was organized, the increasing number of athletes participating in the spring sport has now made the creation of three boys' teams along with two girls' teams necessary.

For the boys' team, the season begins like all typical high school spring sports do, with indoor practices in the winter and a transition to early spring outdoor practices. Beginning in January, the team practiced once a week at the Golf Dome, working on basic passing and catching drills along with some conditioning drills. Then, in February, the boys began conditioning at Van Hoozen Community Park. Regular two-hour practices began March 1.

To get the team into game shape, practices early in the season consisted of running. As the season progresses, more drills that are realistic to game situations will be practiced. Already this year, the teams have run four miles over the course of a two hour practice.

"There's a lot of running involved in our practices. They can get pretty physical too," Sawyer Zirbel (11), who also plays football, said. "Football is harder because there's more pads involved, but we do not do as much running [in football]."

Just like any other club sport, the boys program is made up of area athletes that may attend a school without a lacrosse program. Of the 56 players that makeup the three teams, just five come from other schools. Athletes from schools such as Canterbury and Carroll both have had players on the team over in the past.

"It's just like hockey at Homestead," Kevin Kelley (11), who also plays on the Spartan club hockey team, said. "The players are a good asset to all of our teams."

The girls' team has less intense practices than the boys'; however, they involve just as much running, partially because physical play is not allowed in girl's lacrosse. A typical practice involves running, line drills emphasizing passing and catching and drills that involve shooting and passing on the run.

"We [practice] stick skills continually and also do a lot of agility drills because those are the most important things in lacrosse, especially girl's lacrosse," Coach Kent Brown said.

Among the roughly thirty girls spread between the two teams, there are a total of seven girls from other area schools. Canterbury has the most, with five players on the team.

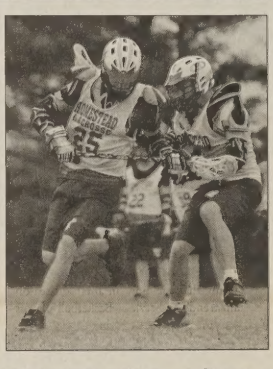
Clea Endres (12), the captain of the girls' team, will be looked upon to lead the team as she did last year. On March 16, Endres signed a letter of intent to play lacrosse for Indiana Tech, making her one of the few athletes from Homestead to play college lacrosse. Along with Endres, there are also three other players on the girls' team with scholarships to play at the college level next year.

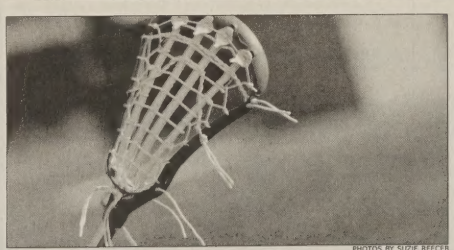
After off-season preparation, both teams are looking to have successful campaigns. With the amount of time these teams have spent conditioning, these teams will assuredly be victorious.

BRIEF HISTORY

Lacrosse is North America's oldest team sport, originating with Native American Tribes. It was played as a part of a religious ritual, to resolve conflicts and as a preparation for war.

Power *in* Numbers





PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Top: Aamir Mirza (12) chases after Trevor Davis (12) to fight for a ground ball. In lacrosse, a ground ball involves scooping up a loose ball with one's lacrosse stick. Left: Veronica Mulhall (12) eagerly waits for the ball to reach her in order to complete a pass. Above: Scott Jarmus (11) fights off Robert Valmassoi (12) for possession of the ball. Bottom left: In girls' and boys' lacrosse, different crosses, or sticks, are used; girls' pockets are more taut and shallow than they are on boys' sticks. There is also no contact in girls' lacrosse like in boys', so girls' do not need to wear as much protective gear.

Softball team looks to future

Optimism, loss of few players encourages united team

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

As the winter sports season comes to a close, it is time for spring athletics to come to the forefront. The varsity softball team has been practicing for months now, and they are ready to play.

Luckily for the team, most of the players from last year are returning. Three team members graduated in 2008, but only one of them was a starter.

"We have eight starters returning as seniors this year, so we have a lot of potential. We should do much better than last year," Jacqui Matheis (12) said.

"I think we're going to be really strong this year because our team is coming back with a lot of experience already," Melissa Harber (12) said.

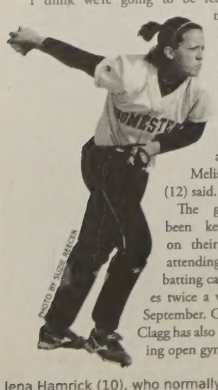


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Jena Hamrick (10), who normally plays shortstop for the team, occasionally tries her arm at pitching for the team.

The girls have been keeping up on their skills by attending optional batting cage practices twice a week since September. Coach Tom Clagg has also been holding open gym practices twice a week since November.

"Some of us had been going to softball three times a week for about three months before tryouts," Harber said.

Because of the optional practices and returning players, the girls are looking at their season with much optimism. Goals of all varsity athletic teams are to win conference and hopefully make it to state, and members of the softball team really believe they have a shot to do that.

"We are all looking forward to having a very successful season, and our goal is to make it to state," Harber said. "If we play McCutcheon in [the regional tournament] again, it will be tough. They are the defending state champions that beat us last year."

However, before sectionals even begin, the girls are hoping to win the Northeast Hoosier Conference title again.

"Our conference is pretty tough; Dekalb and Bellmont will be our toughest [opponents] and biggest games," Matheis said.

Although it is going to be tough, the team thinks it is possible to win the conference title.

"We will hopefully [become] back-to-back NHC champions," Harber said.

The only way for a team to get where they want to be is through chemistry and leadership, two characteristics the varsity team clearly has.

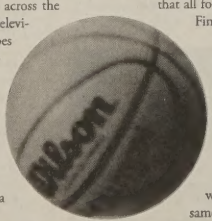
"Half of the varsity team is made up of seniors," Harber said. "As the oldest and most experienced [players], we are going to help our team come together and hopefully lead them to wins."

Optimism, team chemistry, and skill are the three key qualities that will take the varsity softball team from the team they were last year to a new and improved squad. Since the girls made it all the way to regionals last year, one can only expect this year's team to do even better.

Students fill out NCAA Tournament brackets with hopes of correctly predicting next national champs

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

Again, the mad month of March has descended upon the nation. To any sports fan, the month of March means only one thing; March Madness. The NCAA Basketball Tournament is a time when sports fans from across the country huddle around any television they can find in the hopes of watching one of the tournament games. It is a time when fans can proudly display the colors of their favorite team in the hope that their team will be crowned national champions. Others argue and debate over brackets, final four teams and who has a better grasp of "bracketology."



With this season's tournament already cut down to sixteen teams remaining, students are discovering how well they predicted how the tournament would shape up. Some just like to sit back and enjoy the intensity of games like the Ohio State-Siena game, which went into double-overtime. But, the tournament has also brought heartbreak to fans whose teams were sent home early. Many students have also entered bracket "pools" with friends or on online sports websites.

"My bracket is doing alright, but it could be better," Ryan Asta (12) said. "Wake Forest losing and Wisconsin winning really messed it up."

Some upsets have surprised a few students, such as Cleveland State beating Wake Forest and Western Kentucky winning against Illinois. For the most part, this year's tournament has been a bit predictable.

When the brackets were first announced on "Selection Sunday," the hot topic was who would be in Detroit for the Final Four.

Around the school, the popular Final Four seems to include Louisville, Connecticut, Pittsburgh and North Carolina. All four of those teams are number one seeds in the tournament. Last year was the first time in tournament history that all four number one seeds made the Final Four.

"I have Louisville, Connecticut, Duke and North Carolina in my Final Four," Brock Rohlfing (12) said. "I also have Connecticut and [North Carolina] playing for the title with Connecticut winning."

The debate over who exactly will be in Detroit is endless. The same goes for who will win what games in the earlier rounds. Some students have picked their winners based on who they actually believe will win. Others pick based on what conference they are from. Of course, a favorite team will also influence which teams students will predict to be national champions.

"I'm a North Carolina fan, so I have them winning the whole thing," Adam Hamman (12) said. "I think they have a tough road, but I believe they can do it."

Whichever way students decide to fill in their bracket, almost no one will ever have a fully correct bracket and almost no one will ever fully agree on who will be in the Final Four and ultimately win the national championship. But there is one thing that everyone can agree on: March is the time for everyone to come together, watch basketball, enjoy the moments and brag as much as they can about their team until the beginning of the next season.

Everyday fashions set apart athletes, teams from others

Spring is officially upon us, and with spring comes the chance for everyone to shed their winter jackets, snow boots and wool knit hats and finally show off their real style. Through my four years at this school, I've come to notice that the athletes of each sport have their own unique senses of fashion. Each sport has a different style, and being the fashion guru that I am, I have an opinion on each style.

Recently, I noticed that the golf players were back on the links by the way they were dressing. Not only have slacks been appearing on their legs, but Lacoste and Ralph Lauren shirts have been the norm for these sultans of swing. One trend I have noticed in a few of the golfers has been the practice of wearing multiple collared shirts at the same time. Last time I checked, only Tom Ault (11) did this, and the senior class had a "Tom Ault Tuesday" to make fun of the double-collared sensation. Is it now cool for the golf team to sport this look? Am I missing something?

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

The baseball players are another story. Due to the somewhat laid-back nature of the game they play, these athletes are often seen with baseball tournament, camp or showcase t-shirts on, usually with a pair of shorts or jeans. However, the one accessory that I can't get over is the Phiten necklaces about 97% of the team wears. According to the Phiten website, these necklaces "amplify the benefits of longer lasting energy, less fatigue, shortened recovery time and more relaxed muscles." Is that statement shouting "RIP OFF" or what? I say we put about 72 of these necklaces together to see if we can cure cancer or AIDS. Who's with me?

When it comes to women's sports, the fashion is much harder to gauge. All girls are concerned with their appearance inside and outside of school, so that makes it much harder to determine which are athletes. One determining factor I have noticed through my years of observation is the "pre-wrap headband." Pre-wrap comes in many different colors, allowing these girls to accessorize the headbands with their outfits for the day. Softball players, tennis players, basketball players and some track members sport the pre-wrap headband. Whenever I see the "PWH," as I like to call it, I know I can go up to that person and confidently ask about the sport they play.

Even teams that are now in their off-season have certain trends and styles. Basketball players are notorious for the "ultra-long basketball shorts, Jordan brand sandals and black mid-calf socks" look. Last time I checked, socks and sandals were never a good look. Football players are prone to wearing the Spartan football shirts that have some sort of saying that apparently makes one want to beat people up. These shirts always appear tight on the players because they love showing off their huge muscles and jacked physiques. It's like they're showing off or something. I guess I would too if I could bench little children with my pointer finger. Swimmers wear those blue, warm-up jackets that resemble trench coats. Their hair color changes so often that I wonder if they are sleeping in a puddle of melted crayons each night. Hey, whatever floats their boats. Coming from a guy who has no problem wearing sweatpants four days in a row, I think I have a pretty good sense of fashion. Obviously, there are some minor flaws with the styles of the athletes around our schools, but I suppose that, in the end, it just comes down to what suits them. But seriously, it's not about winning or losing, it's about looking good on the field of play.

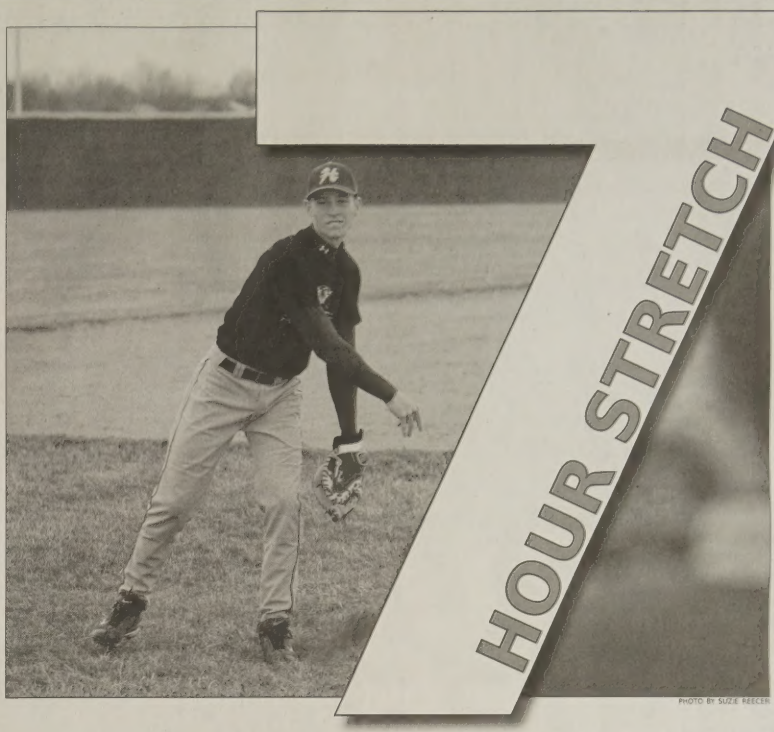


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Baseball team to travel to Tennessee over Spring Break for practice, competition

BY JOE HANAUER
DESIGNER

The estimated distance that the varsity baseball team will be traveling to get to Tennessee is 461 miles, only about 700 miles short of spring break hot-spot Siesta Key. No, they won't run out of gas a quarter of the way there; the team will be continuing its annual spring break trip to sunny Tennessee.

The idea of embarking on a team spring break trip originated only last year with the introduction of varsity coach Steve Sotir. The trip is completely optional for the players and is not mandatory at all.

The junior varsity and freshman team do not have a scheduled trip, but there will be between three or four optional practices for players who are not leaving on vacation. Coaches encourage the players who do leave for their own vacations over break to stay in shape and keep their arms healthy over the week by playing catch and working out if possible.

The team's spring break trip will officially start on March 30 at 8:00 a.m., when it will leave from Homestead in separate white buses and set out for the Jamison Inn in Alcoa, Tennessee. After nine hours of driving, the team will arrive and have a team dinner, followed by a possible late night practice. After practice, the team will retreat to the hotel to make curfew and rest up for the next few days ahead.

Bright and early the next morning, the team will wake up at 7 a.m. and attend a mandatory breakfast. After breakfast, the team will head out to Marysville College Field to begin one of several practices under the hot sun. The practices will be basic and will consist of going over throwing, fielding work, base-running and hitting.

"The practices were pretty basic while we were down there [last year]; we took a lot of ground balls and did outfield work. Some of the dads pitched to us, and we were lucky enough to do a lot of our hitting on the field," Chuck Weaver (12) said.

> "One of my favorite parts about the entire trip [last year] was that our team was able to build chemistry, mesh together and work as a unit."
>
> **CHUCK WEAVER (12)**
> Varsity Baseball Player

Conditioning makes up a large part of the practices. When asked about how the trip went, the players' answers almost unanimously agreed that most practices seemed to revolve around running. The team did a variation of chest-collapsing sprints, including to the foul poles, around the track of a home-run and laps around the field.

Most days will have a practice followed by a game, and the team is going to play between three games during the week. They teams that they will play include Marysville High School, Polk County High School, Sweetwater High School. The team will also be playing the Farragut High School baseball team, which is currently ranked first in the nation.

"The competition was amazing last year. Farragut was the number eight team in the nation last year, and this year, if we play them, they are number one in the nation," Weaver said.

Last year, the team lost its first game to Farragut High School and won its second game against Marysville High School.

Back home in Indiana, the Spartans hope to defend their NHC title and make another state run. In the first polls of the year, the team was ranked eighth in the state. The players look forward to a baseball filled spring break that will help the team come together as a unit.

"One of my favorite parts about the entire trip [last year] was that our team was able to build chemistry, mesh together and work as a unit," Weaver said.

If the team can use the trip to Tennessee as another team-building and skill-building experience, another successful year could be in the cards for the Spartans.

HOME GAMES

April 9 @ 4:30 p.m. vs South Side
April 14 @ 4:15 p.m. vs Dwenger
April 23 @ 4:30 p.m. vs Huntington
April 28 @ 5 p.m. vs East Noble
May 2 @ 10 a.m. vs Elmhurst

Above: Mace Beach (12) practices his throwing skills in the catcher's box during a practice earlier this week.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Returning a serve during practice, Tiffany Schendel (12) works on her forehand.

True test of skills

Final cuts for girls' tennis made today, team looks at season ahead

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

To play on the varsity girls' tennis team, players must have skill, commitment and a solid knowledge of the rules and regulations of the game. When tryouts begin, the girls must take a written test, in addition to having their skills tested, in order to make the varsity team.

"The tennis test is a test over the code and some rules of tennis. It is to make sure we know what to do in certain situations during a match," Jade Johnson (12), four-year varsity tennis player, said. "In order to make the team, you have to get a ninety percent or better and you get three tries to pass the test."

One might say that success on the test can translate to success on the court, which has been the case for Johnson. Over the past four years, Johnson has made it to state three times. This year's team is looking to find the same kind of success. However, the team knows they have a tough rival to beat in Canterbury.

"Last year [our] team made it to the sectional finals and we lost two sets to three sets to Canterbury. We were so close to beating them, but I moved on and made it to the final eight in the state [tournament]. I really hope the team can make it there, first of all, because that's an amazing experience. I'm going to give it my all to make it to state again this year," Johnson said.

> "To achieve our goals this year, we are all going to have to work hard as a team."
>
> **MACY JOHNSON (9)**
> Singles Player

This year, a face that is familiar to Johnson will join the team with her. Her little sister Macy Johnson (9) will play singles on the team this year.

"I love having my sister on the team. We get along really well and she will make the team even better. She is always on my side for things so it feels good to have her on the team with me," Jade said.

Macy Johnson is also excited to be able to play on the same team with her sibling. They often practice at Wildwood Racquet Club, where Jade gives Macy advice

"Having my big sister on the same team as me is so cool. I'll be able to look up to her and go to her for advice. Having her on the same team will make it more fun for me. I'm really excited for the season to start," Macy said.

This year's team is loaded with upperclassmen talent, including the elder Johnson, Theresa Sciole (12), Tiffany Schendel (12), Suzie Reecer (11), Kate Bienz (12) and Claire Lundergan (12). These upperclassmen will lead a few talented underclassmen, including Macy and Samantha Rahrig (9).

"I think our team will go really far this year. We're going to have some pretty good upperclassmen girls on the team," Macy said. "To achieve our goals this year, we are all going to have to work hard as a team."

If the team can combine its upperclassmen leadership with its underclassmen talent, a postseason run isn't too far-fetched. It's possible that they can overcome the test of winning a sectional championship.

SAMPLE TENNIS TEST

Do you have what it takes to make the tennis team? During tryouts, tennis team hopefuls are required to take a written test over the rules and etiquette of the game. To be eligible for the team, each athlete must answer 45 of 50 questions correctly and only has three opportunities to take the test.

1. The score is deuce and you hit your partner with your serve. What is the score now?
a) Deuce, second serve coming b) 30-40 c) add-out

2. If the ball tips the net on the serve and falls in bounds on your opponent's side, who can call let?
a) you b) your opponent c) anyone

3. You return the ball off a serve and hit your opponent in the stomach. What do you do?
a) stop play, apologize b) finish play, apologize c) stop play, take point

Answers: 1) a 2) c 3) b

TRUE LIFE

I WAS A LEASH KID

Practically all children have been separated from their parents at one point or another. When these youngsters can no longer see their parents, they experience a feeling of absolute terror that starts in their stomach. Despite whether or not the child intended to wander off, the parents become equally, if not more, terrified. This parental panic has led to the development of child safety restraints, more commonly known as "kid leashes."

So, who exactly is found wearing a child safety restraint? Leashes are often found on young children that for some reason or another need to be physically tethered to their parent at all times, especially when out in public. Many parents choose to outfit their beloved offspring with the bracelet leash, which is essentially a strap attached to a Velcro loop worn around the wrist. Once a child learns how to take it off, this particular style of leash becomes ineffective. Parents might not even notice that they are walking around the mall dragging an empty, undone Velcro loop behind them.

The rationale for a parent choosing to restrain their child depends on the nature of the child. For example, Kathryn Peters (10) and Tess Anglin (10) were leashed for running or wandering away from their parents when they were small children. Anglin was once brought back to her mother by a stranger after being found wandering in the parking lot of a Kroger grocery store.

Peters became an expert at slipping out of her Velcro bracelet leash, a talent that the young Houdini once exploited at Disney Land. She slipped out of her leash and ran into a store and was only discovered after her sister, also tied to her parents, tattled on her.

For escape artists and wanderers like Peters and Anglin the best design would probably be the harness leash. It wraps around the shoulders and waist and can buckle in either the back or front depending on the design. The price usually ranges from ten to twenty dollars and will help to deter the child from running away because many kids cannot even put their own shoes on, let alone undo a clasp attached to a harness.

"If you have a child who refuses to listen and therefore puts them self at risk, then you need to do what is necessary to protect them," Karen Shane, child development teacher, said. "A child harness may very well be appropriate in certain situations where there are a lot of people [around]."

While Shane has never used a leash on her own child, she believes that "a parent's main responsibility should be for their child's safety." The chance that a child could wander off is especially likely if the child is "headstrong and [has] no fear," according to Shane.

This belief holds true for Bekki Vail, who teaches biology in the freshman academy. Her daughter Kati Vail (10) was "never afraid of anyone and was very curious." These two qualities led to Kati getting lost several times. After deciding to put Kati on a leash, Vail received "nasty looks" while out in public with her. However, for Vail, the nasty looks were much better than losing her child. Kati did not quickly outgrow the habit of wandering away from her mother. When she was in elementary school, Kati left her mother while they were at Disney World and followed a talking trash can for about ten minutes before she even thought to look for her mother again.

Other children, like Luke Berghoff (12), were notorious biters when they were little. The leash ensured that the children would not assault their playmates or a random stranger while out in public.

However, Berghoff did not enjoy his leash. He would experience "extreme whip-lash" whenever he attempted to run away from his mother. He claims that the leash is the reason why he is "so screwed up today." And who can blame him, after the repeated cases of whip-lash? The brain can only be slammed into the skull so many times.

Amber Goad (10) was put on a leash after her parents brought her back to the United States from Germany, where she was born. Her parents were afraid that due to the increased crime rate in America, Goad might be kidnapped. This was a good strategy; it is harder for someone to kidnap a 20 or 30 pound child if they are tied to a 120 pound adult.

There is also a "kid leash" designed for the parent that is deathly afraid of the judgmental public. A parent can splurge on the fancy, fun to wear animal backpack leash. The animal backpack leash comes in the form of a variety of animals, including a monkey, dog, lion or even hippopotamus. Along with the adorable, fuzzy animal, there is an extra long tail that parents can hold onto. The backpack fastens around the child in a similar manner to the harness leash, although it gives the appearance of the animal 'hugging' the child, not strangling him in order to prevent him from moving.

"When I was younger, I was on a leash because I hated sitting still and I always made a run for it. But, it was not called a leash, it was called a bracelet. I used to think it made me special whenever I had it on."
Dylan Bramel (10)

There is even a leash for the cheap parent. It has been suggested by parenting websites that instead of buying a child leash, a parent can just go to the pet store. While at the pet store, the parent can find a dog collar that will fit through the loops of their child's pants and buy the matching leash that goes with it; buying the matching leash will help the child be mocked less. It would be even funnier, or sadder, if the dog belt clashed with the leash.

With the added bonus of spending less money, this innovative leash can usually support up to fifty pounds. That way, if a parent is walking on a pier with a child and the child falls off, he or she can dangle from the leash over the water or rocks below. In theory, this practice would work since it is assumed that the parent will like the child enough not to let go of the leash.

Some kids proudly proclaim their dark history as a leash kid. Others hang their heads in shame and mumble something about needing therapy and hoping their parents will pay for it. Even more vehemently deny being leashed at all. The answer to the question of how many leash kids there are exactly at Homestead will most likely never be known.

When he was in preschool, Michael Wendlandt's (10) entire class had to hold onto a long rope with loops so the teachers did not lose the kids. According to Wendlandt, "One girl lost her shoe and was not allowed to let go of the leash to go get it. Her parents were not very happy."

BY EMILY CHASE, CARRIE CUMMISKEY & LAUREN OLSEN
WRITERS

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARGARET DISTLER

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Monday, May 4, 2009

HOMESTEAD NOW

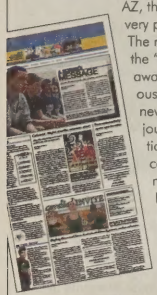
THE NUMBER 10
tons of carbon offset at Earthfest 4A

4,000 vote 'Yes'
SACS taxpayers approve renewal of referendum by more than 2,000 votes 2A

Ramsey nabs math nod
Senior David Ramsey gifted $1,500 scholarship award for mathematics at Sterling Sentinel ceremony 2A

BRIEFS

NSPA BEST OF SHOW
At a scholastic convention that took place April 15 through 20 in Phoenix, AZ, the Spartana won a very prestigious award. The newspaper received the "Best in Show" award out of a numerous amount of other newspapers in the journalistic competition. Prior to the competition, staff members selected Issue 10 to represent them, which featured Devita Thompson's public service announcement for the lead news story along with a vivid display of the Get Fresh Dance Crew as the feature on the back.



SENIOR VARIETY SHOW
Any seniors interested in performing in the Variety Show during Senior Activities Day on Tuesday, May 26 are required to attend one of the two audition sessions next Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7 in the auditorium from 2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Please have a one to two minute audition piece ready to present. Sign ups will be taking place during the auditions. All performers in the show must be Homestead seniors.

MR. SPARTAN CONTESTANTS
Applications for senior guys wanting to compete in Mr. Spartan, the school's first male beauty pageant, are due by the end of day on Wednesday, May 6. The forms can be turned in during lunch or to Mrs. Moss in room 531.

SPRING MUSICAL
Featuring music and lyrics by Cole Porter, Homestead's spring musical, "Anything Goes," opens tonight, Friday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. Additional show times are Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $5 for students and $7 for adults.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Sterling Sentinel Awards Ceremony, Referendum Renewal
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Tax for Two, Letters to the Editor, Financial Waste in Pakistan
PAGE 4A, Life: NHS Coffee House, Fine Arts Week and Gallery
PAGE 5A, Life: Earthfest, Infamous Senioritis, A Butchering of the Language
PAGE 6A, Sports: Boys' Golf, Boys' Track, Fort Wayne Travel Teams
PAGE 7A, Sports: Girls' Track, Full Court Press, Aboite Girls' Softball
PAGE 8A, Feature: Part of the Pastime

PART OF THE **pastime**

FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT JOBS AT AND STUDENT OPINIONS ON THE NEW HOME OF THE FORT WAYNE TINCAPS BASEBALL TEAM, SEE PAGE 8A

SMITH RESIGNS

Superintendent to leave district for Hamilton Southeastern Schools

"This happened to be one of those opportunities that came up that was just a good fit."
BRIAN SMITH

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After overseeing Southwest Allen County Schools for more than a decade, Superintendent Brian Smith is resigning from his position. On Monday night, the Hamilton Southeastern School Board voted to name Smith the new superintendent of its district, a role held by six other officials since February 2008.

Hamilton Southeastern Schools Interim Superintendent Steve Tegarden cited the similarities between both districts as a deciding factor in Smith's appointment.

"We were very impressed with the success the system had had under Dr. Smith," Tegarden said. "In the end of the day, it just seemed like it might be a real good match."

The decision was met with less grace by SACS students and parents who supported Smith's referendum renewal campaign one week earlier. Anna Smith (12), a student who volunteered alongside the superintendent at

Smith, continued on 2a

School District	Enrollment	Free Lunch Count	Graduation Rate	Average Percent Passing ISTEP
Hamilton Southeastern	17,140	7%	87.1%	89.5%
Southwest Allen County	6,811	8%	94.7%	84%

370 trees planted at Arbor Day park

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

It was the Friday morning announcement that students could not stop talking about: Michael Breuning's (12) car cam voyage from Homestead's senior lot to the site of the Little River Wetlands Project. Nevertheless, although his journey was quite humorous, his destination was ultimately more important. Volunteering for Senator Lugar's office, the audacious senior set out to plant 500 river birch trees for his annual Arbor Day project.

"Last year I did a project through Senator Lugar's office because I needed volunteer hours for government, and they suggested that I do an Arbor Day project," Breuning said. "So I ran with it, and I ended up planting 100 trees last year. This year, I'm still volunteering at Lugar's office, and I decided to plant 500 trees. They were donated to us by a place called Vallonia Nursery, which is an hour and a half south of Indianapolis in Vallonia, Indiana. They gave us 500 river birch trees, and they were totally cool about it. The only thing we had to do was pay shipping on them, and so it was like $95, but I talked to an organization called Hoosier Re-Leaf, and they reimbursed me on the shipping."

"I've always been around nature. Sometimes it just makes me sick seeing industrial waste."
MICHAEL BREUNING (12)
Event Organizer

Arbor Day, continued on 2a

Senior Michael Breuning takes a break from planting to advise a fellow volunteer during the Arbor Day event.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Nate Ferrise (12) attempts to frame Nick Jewson (12) of having an affair with Megan Meyer's character in the musical "Anything Goes."

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

homestead high sea notes

Dramatists to perform nautical comedy this weekend

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

Spring is full swing. As thermometer steadily climbs, one telltale sign that the summer months are not far off is the bustling activity in the fine arts wing, including last minute preparations for those involved with the spring musical. With opening night last Friday, the culmination of the cast and crew's laborious rehearsing has drawn near.

Homestead's annual spring musical this year is "Anything Goes." Directed by new drama and English teacher Victoria Malooley, the musical opened Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Additional performances took place Saturday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m.

There was only one weekend the cast per-

Anything Goes, continued on 2a

Counselor lands Lily Grant

Aided by past winners, Rice earns money to visit eastern art schools

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

Every year, the Lily Grant is awarded to educators throughout the country for both educational and personal purposes. For consideration, the educator must to write a proposal for how she would use the grant, specifying how it will benefit both her students and herself. Successfully meeting all of these criteria, the most recent recipient at Homestead is guidance counselor Diane Rice.

"The focus [of the proposal] is teacher renewal, with a tie back to your curriculum," Rice said. "It doesn't have to be that well-integrated tie that regular professional development does. You basically submit a proposal based on their criteria . . . and it's about whatever you want to do—what your heart's passion is."

Having filled out such a detailed proposal, Rice already knows exactly how she will spend the grant.

"You specify very specifically what you're going to do with the grant when you make the proposal," Rice said. "My proposal was to, basically, travel down the East Coast of the United States and look at different types of art schools. It's a wide variety, from culinary arts to performing arts to visual arts to multimedia arts."

When Rice wrote her proposal, she received many pointers from Steve Clough, an English teacher who won the Grant himself in 2003, and to whom Rice is very grateful for his advice.

"I don't know how others feel who have gotten the grant before me, but I would not have gotten it without him," Rice said. "It's like when you're writing a paper for a teacher, and they give you feedback after the draft; that happened probably 25 times. He kept saying, 'Pull more from here, I want to hear your heart in this part.' It got, towards the end, to where he was correcting it maybe every day, maybe some days more than once a day. He knows how to help you write from your heart, and that's what they really want to see."

According to Rice, over 125 educators each year are funded by this grant. There have also been several previous winners at Homestead, and Rice believes that many of them were also helped by Clough.

"I can't say for sure, but I know that he's helped many past winners," Rice said. "He's just got a number on it."

Reflecting on her essay, Rice thinks that her trip to East Coast will be very helpful for her in allowing her to gain a new outlook—aca-

Counselor Grant, continued on 2a

"[Clough] knows how to help you write from your heart and that's what they want to see."
DIANE RICE
Counselor

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Sterling Sentinel gifts awarded

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

Over the past 24 years, the News Sentinel has held its annual Sterling Sentinel awards ceremony, through which the local newspaper distributes scholarships to local seniors who excel in certain academic subject areas.

The scholarships and respective Homestead applicants were as follows: Margaret Distler for journalism, Chris Ray for business, Kara Hackett for English/ Literature, Maria Walker for Foreign Language, Kimi Holmes for Music-Voice, Alycia Matz for Art, Nikki Wilson for Athletics, Jessica Boyer for Industrial-Vocational, David Ramsey for Mathematics, Sean Banta for Music-Instrumental, Jenna Clark for Drama, Brett Ballard for Science, Elizabeth Lippie for Social Studies and Yogesh Jonna for Speech. A $3000 scholarship was awarded to the journalism winner, and $1500 scholarships were awarded to the winners of the remaining categories.

The winners of the scholarships were announced at the award ceremony on Wednesday, April 22. Among the winners was Ramsey for his excellence in mathematics. According to Ramsey, he was able to win in the category of mathematics through both his stellar test scores and his willingness to share his knowledge with others.

"I am lucky to have had the opportunity to do all of the things I needed to do to qualify," Ramsey said. "I am glad I won the scholarship, but it's secondary compared to everything else".

In order to be nominated for a Sterling Sentinel scholarship, a student must possess an extraordinary amount of interest and aptitude in a particular subject area. For example, Ballard has completed seven science classes at Homestead, among other science-related endeavors.

"I think a deciding factor for me to be the Homestead science nominee was my participation in the cancer research program at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY, where I worked under a researcher as my mentor for seven weeks during the summer after my junior year. My mentor, Dr. Slocum, and I worked with cancer cells making experiments that real researchers in the field perform," Ballard said.

Walker, the Homestead nominee for the Foreign Language scholarship, also has an impressive resume of accomplishments.

"I was probably nominated for the foreign language scholarship because I spent last summer studying French in France, and I plan on continuing to study French and Spanish in college and also picking up another language. I do not know what I want to do after college, but it will definitely involve studying foreign languages," Walker said.

Though Ramsey was the only Spartan to receive a scholarship, it is considered an honor to have been nominated in any category, and any of the other Homestead nominees justifiably could have won.

"I will use [the scholarship money] to pay for my education at the University of Chicago," Ramsey said. As the economy remains fairly weak and a college education becomes increasingly more important, it is good to know that local high school students who excel in their respective subject areas are being rewarded for all their hard work.

Brett Ballard (12) waits with the other science nominees.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

ARBOR DAY
CONTINUED FROM 1A

Partnering with Laurie Keys, executive director of both the Aboite New Trails and the Little River Wetlands Project, Breuning successfully organized the event with Allie Quintano (11) who also volunteers at Senator Richard Lugar's Northeast Indiana Community Service Center. Once everything was in order, Breuning began advertising with posters around the school and presentations to the Eco Club.

"Michael presented a slide show to Eco Club about Arbor Day and got us all involved with the project," Bri Bardonner (10), Eco Club member, said. "It made the whole club excited to help out."

Along with the Eco Club participants, the number of volunteers who showed up to help plant trees totaled to what Breuning assumed was nearly 100. However, with so many people present, problems began to arise.

"I was a little disappointed that we only got to 370 trees planted because we had a lot of people show up who didn't know what to do," Breuning said. "I had about 15 crew leaders that I explained what to do and how to direct people, but people showed up and they started planting trees wherever they wanted to."

Yet, despite minor difficulties, Breuning's passion for the project made it an enjoyable experience nonetheless.

"I've always been around trees," Breuning said. "I've always been around nature. I'm an Eagle Scout, so I've always enjoyed camping, nature, ecology. Sometimes it just makes me sick seeing industrial waste."

Growing up with woods behind his house, he hopes to share the beauty of the environment he loves by continuing to plant trees along the Towpath, a portion of Huntington Valley which will become a new stretch of the Aboite Trails this fall.

"I'm going to go to IPFW for my first year of college, so I'm going to stick around and do even a bigger project next year to get more people involved," Breuning said. "I hope to line the entire trial. This entire Towpath is about 4,000 feet—I did 1,200 feet. My plan is for next year to complete the rest of that trail. Also, we are going to see where else we can esthetically place trees because I think it's cool when architecture can involve nature."

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Left: Trent Cooper (11) digs a hole to use for future planting. Cooper was one of an estimated 100 students who attended the Arbor Day event hosted by Michael Breuning. Above: Michael Breuning assists a student while examining the roots of a tree plant. The mass amounts of plants used during the day were courtesy of an Indianapolis nursery.

ANYTHING GOES
CONTINUED FROM 1A

formed this year — a change from two weekends of performing in previous years.

The story line of the musical takes place on a ship with a rather eccentric cast, including an "evangelist night club singer," a public enemy, a stock broker, a debutante and an English gentleman. According to the plot line, the characters continually fall in and out of love, making for a series of humorous scenarios in which everyone eventually discovers their own individual version of happiness.

"It's very upbeat, funny and has a lot of great roles and great songs," Malooley said.

The cast had about 40 members, ranging from the powerhouse vocalists playing the leads to the song and dance numbers performed by the chorus. Additionally, there were 12 members of the stage crew, who play a vital role in any musical. These members were responsible for running all behind the scenes aspects of the play.

The orchestra was also involved in this year's production of "Anything Goes," providing full musical accompaniment to the play during the dress rehearsals of the week prior to and weekend of the performances.

While "Anything Goes" has many leads, some notable students who played starring roles are Megan Meyer (12), Carson Royer (11), Kimi Holmes (12), Nate Ferrise (12), Hali Bickford (12) and Nick Jewson (12).

Since auditions were held at the end of February, the cast had been rehearsing five days a week. Rehearsals on Mondays through Wednesdays were devoted to blocking and characterization with Malooley, whereas Thursdays and Fridays were devoted to practicing choreography with their choreographer.

The week prior to opening night, the cast, crew, and orchestra had been running full dress rehearsals to make sure the lights, sounds, props, sets and costumes were all fully prepared for opening night.

After such rigorous preparations, those involved in the production showed signs of confidence.

"I think it was spectacular!" Malooley said.

Sharing her enthusiasm, Ferrise believed that this year—his third year involved in a spring musical—was a success. In "Anything Goes," Ferrise played "Moon Face Martin," the comical gangster and public enemy #13 who tries to help his friend "Billy" get the girl of his dreams.

"I enjoy theater, and I want to go into acting in college," Ferrise said. "It's a passion. The best part of my part this year was I got to carry a 'Tommy Gun,' which is an old gangster machine gun."

Like Ferrise, Holmes has done the spring musical since her sophomore year. In "Anything Goes," she played Hope Harcourt, the love interest of Billy Crocker.

"My favorite part of doing the musical was working with the cast," Holmes said. "Rehearsals were fun because we're all friends, so we just joked around a lot. Even though it's my last [musical showing at Homestead], I do community theater so it's not going to be my last performance."

Tickets to the show were available during lunch modules all week for $5.00. They were also be sold at the door for $5.00 for students and children under 12, and $7.00 for adults.

After the curtain going up on Friday night, the cast and crew were excited to present the product of nearly two months of rehearsal.

Referendum passed by SACS district taxpayers

Schools will maintain small class sizes, options

BY PRIYA PARIKH
WRITER

On Tuesday April 21, Allen County voters passed the 2009 referendum renewal, continuing financial aide to our school system. Passing four votes to one, the referendum now guarantees a maintained class size while mitigating discrepancies and offering a variety of classes.

The topic of the renewal has been discussed in classrooms and schools all around the district. Many teachers are adamant to share their opinions on the referendum.

"I voted for the referendum because it absolutely essential," Steve Clough, English teacher, said. "We know that with the state funding formula that is creating the trouble that we have here that to go forward without it would just be disaster. It's going to be tough enough anyway; class sizes are getting larger and the minimum numbers of kids per class is going up. We're still having lay offs of teachers district wide and that's with the referendum going through. So to not vote for it and see it fail simply wasn't an option."

Along with the teachers who supported the referendum, many students who voted have strong opinions concerning the topic at hand as well.

"I believe that the education system is important," Justin Carter (12), who voted in support for the referendum, said. "Our school system doesn't receive enough money from the government to support our high standards of education. Thus, it is up to the residents of the Southwest Allen school district to help provide incentives for the school system to be able to use to better the education of students."

Although the referendum has been passed and the majority of individuals are satisfied with the results, there is still much work that must be done to ensure full support of our educational system. The state funding formula still has major flaws, and school officials are now recommending that voters consult their local representatives about changing it. School systems have already notified legislators' that issues like equity and accountability must be taken into consideration for the funding formula, but voters must now take it upon themselves to reinforce these issues in the legislator's minds and avoid having to pass another referendum in the future.

"I would love to see something come out from our teachers union and the administration about what we can do and what everybody in the community can do to get behind the pressure on the state legislator and change this thing," Clough said. "It's one of the most idiotic things I've ever seen in politics."

"We are participated in a letter writing campaign a couple days ago to discuss the state equity issue, and what is going to go on for the next 10 years," SACS Superintendent, Dr. Brian Smith, said. "We discussed what action is appropriate with the state funding issue. At this point, if the state equity issue is not been addressed, we're going to be asking parents to get in touch with our legislators to question why funding equity has not been addressed."

The push for more support of school funding has been mainly due to the effect of the current economic hardships. Students, parents, teachers, and faculty now want to see effective results from their increased property taxes.

"The economy was a concern for all of us," Smith said. "These are hard economic times and we have to make people work harder. The thing that separates Southwest Allen Country from other districts is the fact that parents' support in our education is so high. They see that we need to keep what we have in our schools. I thought the economy would create some issues because of the people that are out of work or have fixed incomes, and yet, I think the vibrancy of the Aboite township is directly associated with the vibrancy in the schools. They're inexplicably entwined with each other, and they support one another. Therefore, we need to continue to keep both of them growing."

SMITH
CONTINUED FROM 1A

the polls, believes the move is in poor taste given the timing.

"The three of us who volunteered with him feel slightly betrayed," she said. "The sudden transfer makes one wonder when it became a matter of career advancement and stopped being about the students."

In Smith's absence, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Carey will act as interim superintendent while the school board searches for candidates. Smith explained that state funding expertise is "something they will consider" when selecting applicants. He also plans to continue his crusade against discrepancies in Indiana's school finance formula, a conflict that stretches beyond the boundaries of Southwest Allen County.

"As I told them, I just couldn't pick up and leave, and they understood that."

BRIAN SMITH
SACS Superintendent

"I am determined that we are going to pursue funding equity," Smith said. "That's going to benefit everybody like Hamilton Southeastern and Southwest Allen."

On the morning prior to the appointment, Smith notified his district administration before travelling to the school corporation north of Indianapolis, where he completed paper work and met with various officials. According to Smith, his colleagues reacted with "shock."

"I'm not sure I was even planning to leave if you asked me several months ago," Smith said. "It just happened."

Although Smith had knowledge of his consideration as early as February, he placed any offers in abeyance while SACS promoted the refresh of its referendum.

"I just told them I had several commitments throughout the school year and that I really couldn't make any commitment to them until near the end of this school year," Smith said. "As I told them, I just couldn't pick up and leave, and they understood that."

While the announcement left some students in awe, others welcomed the change of administration. Smith's leave, according to referendum volunteer Michael Yang (12), should be accepted and overlooked as the district progresses.

"Maybe it's time for him to have a change," Yang said. "I am kind of annoyed that he left after the referendum and all of the work that went into that, but he did do good things for the district."

Smith will assume his new post on July 1, 17 days after Homestead seniors' graduation ceremony at the Memorial Coliseum.

COUNSELOR GRANT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

demically and personally.

"I'm a very practical person, my favorite subject in school was math, but what I'm looking at is a broader perspective," Rice said.

Preparing herself to counsel students with interests different from her own, Rice will soon be able to give much more insight on how creative arts schools function and which are most beneficial. Traveling with a planned purpose, she also has a very specific agenda to which she must adhere when visiting the destinations on her trip.

"I'll visit a school, and I'll talk to the admissions people. I'll talk to the placement people, which are people you work with on your way out of the university, and then I will experience that art venue," Rice said. "At Johnson and Wales, I'll stay at the Johnson and Wales Inn, which is right by the students and go back in the kitchen with the chef. In that particular case, it's a working classroom. I hope that every class that I get to observe is hands on. One lady said to me, 'You don't want to go and observe a lecture.' That was a true statement. When I see a class in each of these places, I want to see the students 'doing.' In that respect, I hope that it helps me to be more enlightened as I work with students who are choosing the creative arts field as their future."

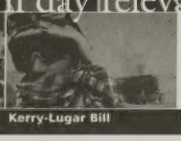
WRITE HERE, WRITE NOW.
THESPARTANA@GMAIL.COM

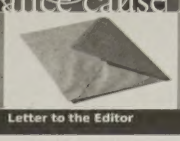
OPINION

Historic re-enactment with modern day relevance cause for protest, 3a

page 3a
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Tax Day Tea Parties


Kerry-Lugar Bill


Letter to the Editor

Monday, May 4, 2009

tax FOR two

National protests against high taxes directed toward Obama

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Across the United States within the past month, groups of citizens have gathered in public to express their dissatisfaction with government taxation and spending. The protests draw their theme from the Boston Tea Party of 1773, and despite this clever revival of the iconic revolution, recent events (aptly referred to as "tea parties") are anything but the organized and well-intentioned uprisings of their predecessors.

The demonstrators have protested what they believe to be exorbitant tax rates and wasteful, excessive government spending. The laughable absurdity of this circumstance is that the Obama administration has yet to impose a single tax since the inauguration. When the administration inevitably does, the taxes will be accompanied by income tax cuts to 95% of Americans, including additional tax decreases for small businesses, tuition payers, and property owners.

The only citizens eligible for a tax increase are those whose annual incomes exceed $250,000 -- a demographic encompassing only the top 1.5% of the national population. Let us not forget that this taxation rate remains ten points lower than the far more exorbitant taxation policies of Reagan and Nixon. Perhaps the most amusingly ironic facet of the tea parties is the fact little to no citizens who stand to experience higher taxation were present. The crowds have been filled with low and middle-income taxpayers who are ironically poised to gain the most from Obama's tax policies, and time and time again, those who oppose these beneficial policies are those who have remained stalwartly ignorant and been repeatedly misinformed by the GOP.

The tea parties were painted as a bipartisan effort, although their execution was anything but. The Huffington Post captured photographs of numerous picketed depictions offensively likening Barack Obama to Adolf Hitler as well as signs protesting abortion. The tea parties were clearly in no manner a bipartisan effort -- they were merely a conglomeration of the conservative agenda and unhappy voters spurned by the previous election. These protests were disorderly and juvenile, and therefore impossible to respect in the least.

The participants of the tea parties entered these circumstances with the wrong attitude. The United States as a whole needs to be patient -- Barack Obama is not a magician and a wave of his presidential wand will not make the recession disappear overnight. Everyone will have to make sacrifices in order to restore America, and while it certainly is not fair, complaining will change the state of the times no more than it will benefit the nation. While the stimulus plan is undoubtedly expensive, the national deficit has been an astronomical sum for quite some time, and the regenerated economy will pay for itself.

American citizens are not obligated to like Barack Obama's policies, but in order for progress to be made, citizens will have to get in line behind the president. There is no use in protesting any longer; the political wheel has already been set in motion, and only faith and a fervent support of American livelihood, if not the president, can keep us from spiraling deeper into the black hole of recession.

Trusted senator will waste taxpayers' dollars to construct Pakistani schools

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

In this new year, we have elected new leaders; ironically, they are leading us down a very familiar path. A new president and a couple of old senators are opening up the United States next financial black hole: Pakistan. President Obama's policies seem to show that the couple years spent closing the war in Iraq will be more expensive than fighting it. While throwing money into this all too familiar situation, the government has found the need to not only fund national security overseas but also to "strengthen [foreign] democracies."

Richard Lugar has been an Indiana senator for 32 years, and has more years of experience than any other Republican currently in office. Apparently, decades of experience led Senator Lugar to join hands with Democratic Senator John Kerry by request of President Obama to strengthen the democracy of Pakistan.

Both the success in Germany and failure with Afghanistan in the 1970s have proven that investing in countries that the military has used as a battleground is effective. This does not mean, however, that we should spend billions of dollars to build schools in a country that is in the midst of fighting a resurgent Taliban. For the past two years, the Taliban has provided overwhelming resistance to the Pakistani government in the great valley. The government has neither the resources nor the means to fight the Taliban; however, both senators have led a bill requested by president Obama to attack the issue in different path.

Instead of enabling the Pakistani government with funds for arms and national defense, the Kerry-Lugar bill proposes to strengthen their democracy. The bill for $1.5B annually for five years is for building schools, roads, hospitals and government offices. Moreover, the funding goes to a government led by Asif Ali Zardari. Zardari has spent his time in office removing his political opponents and pressuring their Supreme Court to restrict popular opponents from running for office, instead of helping his country progress. On the other hand, the executive branch has asked for an additional $83B for the war in Iraq. They claim that it will be enough for the rest of the 2009 fiscal year; in reality, it will only be enough for a few months until the government decides again to print and borrow money.

> "...there is no end in sight to this cyclic process of creating and spending money."
>
> **YOGESH JONNA**
> Associate Opinion Editor

It seems that under this newly reformed government there is no end in sight to this cyclic process of creating and spending money. Despite personal beliefs on the wars in the Middle East, one thing is certain. The solution will never be to throw money at the problem. The government looks at its power to create money not as a responsibility towards the people but rather as a bank whose only limit is the number of trees on the Earth.

LETTER TO THE editor

Collin Brophy (12) comments on Opinion Section

Throughout the year, whether out of boredom or curiosity, I enjoyed tracing over the lines of the school paper. If only to take away, from the minutes I spend combing the articles for a good read, a fuller understanding of the makeshift society law mandates I submit myself to 5 days a week, 180 days a year. The articles by Opinion editor Ashley Heath and my peers' reactions to her statements have been interesting. Ask anyone and they'll say that I'm a die hard liberal. Here's the catch: I'm indifferent to both extremes in the political spectrum. My opinions mean little to me because I know they won't serve a higher purpose. My views shift with whomever I'm conversing with simply to be argumentative. Blue, Red, Green, life is too complicated to be split into colors that stand for a set of beliefs. Many voice their anger over the publication of extremely conservative articles by our friend Ashley. People shout their opinion as if the louder they shout, the more correct their view is. What everyone fails to realize is that it's all the same. No matter how defined an individual becomes, anything he produces to be considered of merit, is entirely pointless to a nation's growth. Darwin had a point when he published his theory of natural selection. Those who are unwilling to adapt to their environment die, and the stronger, more versatile live. Therefore, liberals and neoconservatives are walking corpses. Our elections only serve to satisfy the burning desire of half of the ignorati, to hold some association with a color (of all things), over the other half. Frankly, what shocks me is how little the passing of office from one party to another actually changes things. Barack Obama ran under a banner of change, yet days after the election, we sent a missile into Pakistan. Don't get me wrong, I love the guy, but what people fail to realize is that change and progress are events that occur with the passage of time, not office. It's disheartening that the ideals that millions hold only fuel a burning resentment for one color or another. Many believe that if they are similar to the individual "charged" with running the country, their personal beliefs are more valued than their neighbors'. It isn't the color of the man in office that moves our nation along its rocky path; it's that someone fills the role. Please, stop arguing for something you can't change. To voice your opinion is one thing. To do it in a public forum is another. To print articles that will incite anger in those that you walk the halls with daily has been reason for me to use the last issue of the paper as kindling. A publication I once read to distract myself from how crappy things can seem sometimes has fallen so far as to become something I desire to avoid when dropped on a desk in seventh period. Congratulations, my friends, you now contribute another roll of toilet paper for society to wipe itself with.

Sincerely, Collin Brophy

James Frazier, P.E. teacher, opposes waiver policy

As a former student athlete and a coach of many high school sports in recent years, I realize the time and effort that goes into conditioning for sports at the high school level. The amount of work and fitness activities done by our athletes is without doubt something that is to be commended and appreciated. However, most sports require sport specific fitness and skills that prepare them only for that sport. By requiring all students to take two semesters of P.E. during their high school years, we are able to introduce lifetime sports activities that some might not otherwise ever learn about or have the opportunity to play. We also have a large focus on fitness in P.E. and try our best to incorporate many different types of workouts and cardiovascular fitness activities so that students get the chance to see if there might be other activities or exercises they enjoy. They then could continue to do these on their own outside of class and hopefully throughout their life.

OPINION
another hurdle to
EDUCATION

This is the main reason giving waivers for P.E. would be something that shouldn't be considered by Homestead High School. I believe that allowing student athletes to be excused from the P.E. requirements would not allow them to experience a well-rounded wellness program that teaches both lifelong physical activities and lifelong fitness activities.

The other issue I have with the P.E. waiver is I feel it opens up a huge can of worms as to who is eligible and what sports are eligible for these waivers. Would it be to all student athletes at every level from varsity to freshmen level teams? Would it include club sports? Would it include the hard working band, dance and show choir teams that are co-curricular activities and already receiving school credit for their participation? Also, what do we do with the student who makes the team, receives the waiver and is then injured, is kicked off because of bad behavior or fails off of the team because of poor grades? Will they be forced to then take P.E. class? There are many other scenarios that complicate this issue. But ultimately it all goes back to the fact that they would be missing out on opportunities to learn new sports and fitness activities that can help them stay in shape for life.

Making a blanket statement saying waivers should be granted is something I believe needs to be reconsidered by the Spartana Ed Board. I also believe the benefits of physical education are clear and something even the finest athletes can benefit from.

Thank you. James Frazier, Homestead P.E. Teacher (this letter was also supported by Dick Shenfeld, HHS P.E. Dept Head)

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
CHARLES WALTER

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
JOE HANAUER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

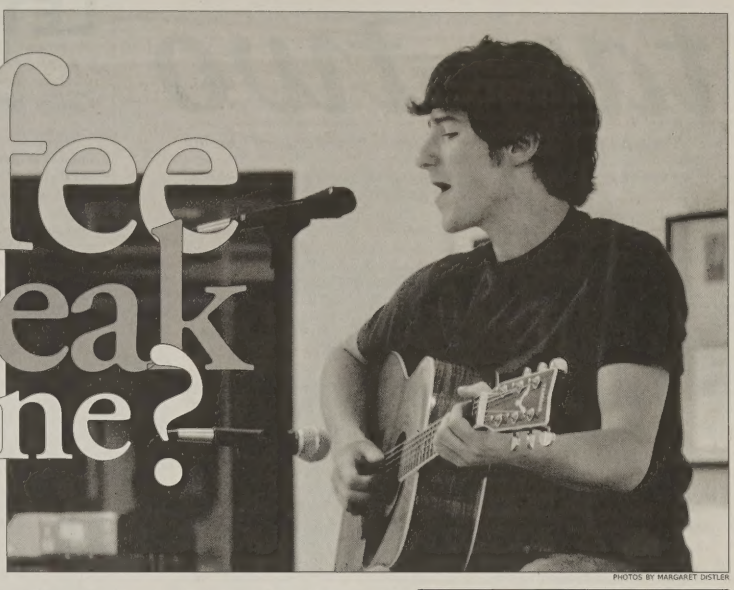
fine arts week creates appreciation for student talent, creativity, 5a

page 4a
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NHS Coffee House | Orchestra | Jazz Band

Monday, May 4, 2009

coffee break anyone?



PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Annual National Honor Society Coffee House concludes week of fine arts

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Good music, art, food, friends and the aroma of coffee beans in the air make the perfect ingredients for an amusing and relaxed atmosphere like the one that could be experienced at the National Honor Society (NHS) Coffee House on Friday, April 24. However, there were many preparations to be made before the event could successfully take place.

"We had to get all of the events lined up and we had to get the word out and make sure we had all of the equipment and food needed. We had a few difficulties, but overall, it went pretty smoothly," Tarun Jain (12), Coffee House Coordinator, said.

With the stage set up, coffee brewing, desserts displayed, streamers hung, balloons blown and the fine arts gallery open and ready for viewing, the NHS Coffee House commenced. As students arrived an amiable atmosphere was created.

"I am a member of the NHS executive committee so I went to support the NHS and see some of the talent we have at Homestead. My favorite part was the food because it was all arranged by Cassie Kuczmanski (12) and she is an amazing cook," Alison Podlaski (12) said. "Everything was really well put together and I thought they did a really good job overall."

In the spirit of promoting creativity, the tables were adorned with table cloths made of construction paper so that the audience would be able to draw while listening to the musical acts. With differing performers lined up, the NHS Coffee House gave students plenty of reasons to attend.

> "We just wanted to make sure that everyone has a good time and that people showed up and enjoyed themselves. My favorite part was listening to all the different bands perform and listening to what each different person brought to the table."
>
> **TARUN JAIN (12)**
> NHS Coffee House Coordinator

"I went because I like the music and I wanted to see the fine arts gallery to support the Homestead's fine arts program. My favorite part was listening to the music, especially Tareq (Abdel-Khaleq) (12)," Peter Ali (10) said.

The NHS Coffee House also provided the performing students with an opportunity to showcase their talents. Unlike other events, in which there is much more pressure and stress put on the performers, the NHS Coffee House provided an informal and casual environment. Gabrielle Tatara (10) shared her experience as a performer for the NHS Coffee House.

"I get nervous before any gig, but I have played at a lot of places now and I've played at a lot of real coffee houses, so I wasn't really nervous because I know that the whole focus isn't exactly on you. I absolutely love playing but I loved hearing the other musicians, too," Tatara said.

Despite setbacks that occurred when some of the scheduled performers canceled their appearances, the planners of the NHS Coffee House managed to achieve their goals and pull off a jovial and pleasant event for students to partake in.

"We just wanted to make sure that everyone had a good time and that people showed up and enjoyed themselves. My favorite part was listening to all the bands perform and listening to what each different person brought to the table," Jain said.

After all the acts were performed, all the coffee was sold, the audience was gone, the decorations were removed and the equipment was put away, the National Honor Society had the satisfaction of knowing they provided the student body with a care-free and entertaining event.

NHS member Cassie Kuczmanski (12) unwraps the plates of desserts with the help of NHS Junior Treasurer Tori Rowe (12). Kuczmanski was responsible for assigning other members to bake certain goods and for arranging them in a presentable manner to the customers on Friday night. Out of all the desserts offered, cookies were the most purchased item of the evening.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

Part of Earthfest proceeds to be donated to environment preservation efforts, research

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Some say music makes the world go round, but it also may make the world go green. On Thursday, April 30, students gathered around the courtyard to listen to local bands perform. Not only is Earthfest a popular event to which many students go, but it also serves a good purpose.

In fact, Earthfest raised money to help preserve the environment and reduce carbon emissions. In doing so, some of the money will be donated to a company that does research on carbon offsets, investing in ways to offset carbon emissions in the atmosphere. For example, planting trees can counteract carbon dioxide. Overall, the school hopes to offset at least 10 tons of carbon.

> "I think the one thing that make Earthfest something really cool is the fact that so many different people connect through music. It just shows us the power that music actually has."
>
> **SAMMY SCARINGELLI (11)**
> Earthfest Performer

While students listened to the music of local bands, other school organizations wanted to help out at Earthfest by selling snacks and beverages. Along with the $10 admission fee and t-shirt, students were given the opportunity to buy coffee sold by the Ecoclub, as well as a wide selection of pastries, baked goods and lemonade sold by the Hospitality club. In addition, STAND sold bracelets and allowed students to rent lawn chairs for the duration of the event.

Gathering in the front atrium, attending students enjoyed the music of the 13 bands that were featured. However, before each band was allowed to play, they had to audition. Student government member and Earthfest coordinator Quinn Brenneke (11) judged the tryouts.

"I loved listening to the tryout CDs," Brenneke said. "It was great hearing all of the talent that our school has."

The auditioning bands played a variety of music, including rock, jazz, indie, punk rock, blues and acoustic. The selected performers then worked even harder to prepare for the event and invested time in fine-tuning their music.

"We practiced as often as we could after school to get ready," Keelan Rushing (10) said. "Luckily we had some pretty talented guys, so we all knew what we needed to do."

Song selection was no problem for the bands. While some chose songs that the audience might know and sing along to, others opted for more obscure songs that related to personal experiences.

"We performed a wide variety, including "The Best of Me" by the Starting Line and "From the Inside Out" by Seventh Day Slumber," Kurt Luithly (11) said. "We picked the first song because we all enjoy it, but we picked the second because we've played it so many times for church and we really enjoy it. We thought that since it was a band of five Christians we could do a little bit to show our religiousness." However, along with the many perks of personal expression, performing for an audience definitely had its obstacles. Because there are many problems that can interfere with a live performance, the bands had many worries when they were on stage. Timing between band members, remembering the lyrics and playing through mistakes were important obstacles to overcome. Yet, among all the possible difficulties, nerves were the most common dilemma for new performers.

"The most challenging thing about performing would have to be overcoming nerves," Ryan Lentine (12) said. "When I first started performing I would shake pretty badly, but over time you start to feel more comfortable on stage and you sort of transport into another world -- the crowd almost disappears."

Earthfest was a great way to raise money to help the environment. Many different kinds of people were able to come together with a common interest to serve a helpful and meaningful purpose.

"I think the one thing that makes Earthfest something really cool is the fact that so many different people connect through music," Sammy Scaringelli (11) said. "It just shows us the power that music actually has."

Tips on avoiding linguistic pandemic of epic proportion

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOC. EDITOR

In the course of my 18 years on this planet, a majority of which I have been able to speak and comprehend language, I have discovered something quite peculiar. I have found that, far too often, people seem to take pleasure from eagerly butchering the English language.

When I am having a conversation or happen to overhear one, I frequently find that there is a complete disregard for proper grammar, syntax or word choice. It's almost as if people enjoy sounding mundane in their diction and have no aspirations of improving themselves.

I understand that there are many situations in which you do not need to speak formally, but certain colloquialisms should be avoided entirely. Using "like" as a filler word is one of the worst literary offenses one can commit. Some may aspire sound like a '90s valley girl, but the majority of society finds this type of people unbearable.

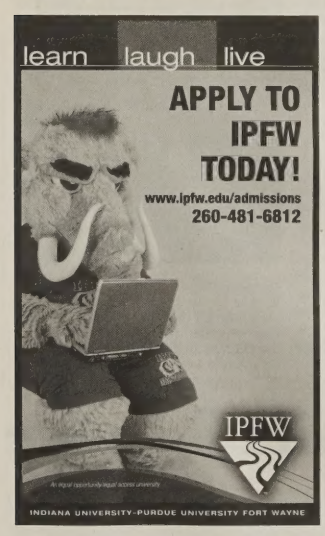
Today's undersized vocabularies need our attention. People simply and mindlessly describe things as "good" when a much more descriptive and vivid word would work much better. Use "fantastic," "wonderful," "stupendous" or "exceptional;" they're still fairly common words, but they have a certain intellectual quality that "good" does not. Occasionally using more advanced words allows you to at least put on a façade of intelligence. I tease because I care.

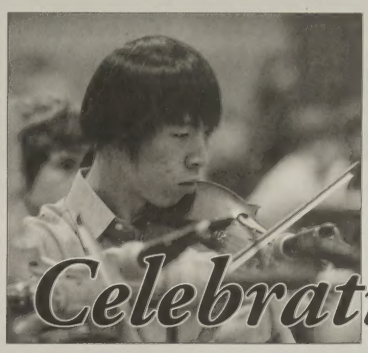
Today's word-of-the-day that you can use to expand your vocabulary is "schadenfreude" [shahd-n-froi-duh]. It is borrowed from German, but is English nonetheless. It's a noun that means enjoyment derived from the misfortunes of others. Used in a sentence: "People took schadenfreude in Bernie Madoff's situation." Try to work the word into your next conversation.

E-nun-ci-a-tion has also been lost somewhere in the evolution of English. I know people have acquired various accents determined by where they were born or have lived, but some people seem to be completely apathetic. Mumbling has become contagious. There's no use in speaking if no one can understand you.

I don't blame anyone in particular for this linguistic pandemic, but prominent public figures certainly haven't helped citizens gain a greater mastery of the English language. I'm not insinuating anything about his intelligence, (yes I am), but for the past eight years, President Bush hasn't exactly been a great example of syntax at its finest. When there are entire one-a-day calendars devoted to idiotic quotations from the man who is alledgedly the most powerful in the country, it doesn't say much about everyone who elected him.

Modern English, especially written English, is bursting with bad habits that spread by means of imitation. The transfer of these tendencies can easily be avoided if one is willing to put forth the necessary effort. If you are able to separate yourself from the two-bit crowd of word assassins, you will be able to express yourself more clearly and in concisely. The last thing we need is another George Bush.





Celebrating the arts

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, SUZIE REECER

Fine Arts Week showcases students' creative talents, dedication over year

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

This past week, stepping into the community room may have resembled walking into a professional art gallery in a large city. The entire room was covered with pictures, baskets, bags and ceramics. As hard as it might be to realize it, every one of those pieces originated from the Homestead art rooms; all of the works were created by a Homestead student or faculty member.

"The art teachers [have] been collecting all year long for the show," Cindy Husar, Ceramics teacher, said.

Husar has been involved in ceramics for twenty years, which might explain why it is her favorite class to teach. Along with Husar, all of the art teachers at Homestead are deeply involved in the art gallery.

"Scheduling is done a year in advance because of how busy May is," Sarah Jones, art teacher, said.

Jones' favorite classes are Advanced 2-D Art and Art History.

"Art History [is] the one class [I have] helped to develop [at Homestead]," Jones said.

The teachers look forward to the art gallery, but that does not mean that there is not a lot of work involved.

"For some, the hardest part of the gallery is simply finding the time to get everything together," Lisa Ricker, art teacher, said.

Mitch Welbaum (11) displayed some ceramic pots that he created in the gallery.

"I feel really good about [showing my art work in the gallery] and I enjoy it," Welbaum said. "I miss ceramics because I couldn't fit it in my schedule this semester. I would definitely suggest others take some art classes, [particularly if] they are hands-on [types of classes]."

Stephanie Scribner (10) walked through the gallery on Friday during sixth period.

"The gallery and the works shown really impressed me," Scribner said. "They inspired me to want to be as good as that."

After having taught at Haverhill Elementary, Mike Schmid now teaches art at Homestead and continues to be impressed with the program.

"Homestead has a tradition of producing highly skilled artists, and that tradition looks like it is not in danger of changing anytime soon," Schmid said.

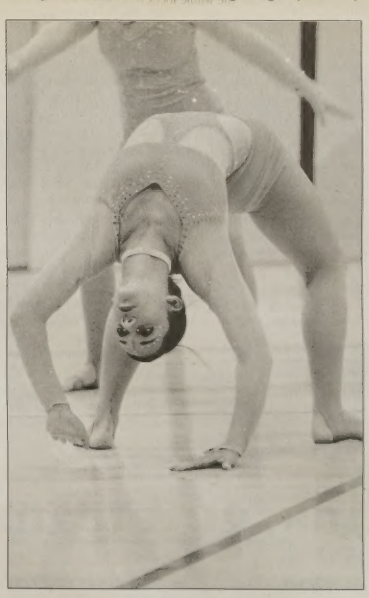
> "Homestead has a tradition of producing highly skilled artists, and that tradition looks like it is not in danger of changing anytime soon."
>
> **MIKE SCHMID**
> Art Teacher

The art gallery is not the only way Homestead displayed its fine arts talent this past week. The convocation held on Tuesday revealed the hard work done by various groups, including the orchestra and color guard. These groups do not often perform for an audience almost exclusively made up of their fellow students.

"It's like [you are] sharing with them what you know," Sarah Sims (10), orchestra member, said. "It's more relaxed and more fun to play for students."

For the color guard, there was a different kind of pressure performing in front of peers than the pressure of performing in front of a group of judges.

"We go out [to perform] knowing that half of the kids don't care," Emily Potts (11), color guard member, said. "You are being judged on the action instead of the technique."

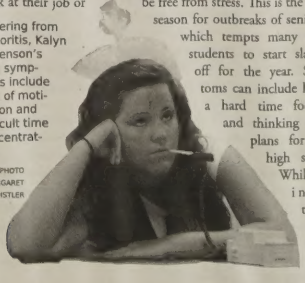


Top left: Orchestra member George Chen (11) plays the violin during the ensemble's performance of "Hoe Down" at the convocation. Top right: Alongside her fellow Elite show choir members, Valerie Parker (10) performs during the choir's two songs. Bottom right: Responsible for the transitions from one group to the next, Mr. Clough introduces jazz band. Bottom right: Bending backwards, varsity dancer Laura Aleman (11) performs the team's jazz routine during the assembly.

As graduation approaches, seniors catch contagious senioritis

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

As students come back from their spring break trips, some are having a hard time transitioning back in to the school mode. With warmer temperatures and the chance to relax, the vision of summer is filling the minds of many students. For seniors, summer may mean the last time they can relax with their friends in town, work at their job or be free from stress. This is the prime season for outbreaks of senioritis, which tempts many senior students to start slacking off for the year. Symptoms can include having a hard time focusing and thinking about plans for after high school. While the intentions that these students have could be pure, this condition could result in falling grades for those that do not control it. Senioritis is not the only thing that affects students during their year; many are busy filling out applications, studying for tests, and preparing for life after high school.



Suffering from senioritis, Kalyn Jorgenson's (12) symptoms include lack of motivation and difficult time concentrating.

PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

"I really have to push myself to work, because I want to slack off with school almost being done," James Valdez (12) said.

As freshman, many high school students plan ahead for their final year, and often, many plan to slack off their senior year. This makes it even harder for the students to focus, because they have been planning not to for their entire time in high school. For many, senior year is the one that is most often looked forward to and thought about. Although it receives all of this attention, many students are shocked when it hits them, because of all of the activities that occur.

"Senior year has been a rush in general. College applications or not, this year has really flown by," Valdez said.

During senior year, along with all of the academics that are paid attention to, students often still find time to relax with their friends.

"This year has been where I have grown closer to my friends," Nikki Wilson (12) said. "I love playing sports at Homestead; I will miss my basketball girls a lot and am excited for this softball season to start."

For some, senior year is a time to motivate them; others find it a time to focus on their athletics. While either choice provides the student with fulfillment, a balance of the two is often the best choice. With athletics, students are exposed to successful teams, and some students go on to play sports in college.

"The thing that has taken a lot of my time is e-mailing and talking to softball coaches because I wish to play softball in college," Wilson said.

Not only does senioritis affect the student body, but teachers also feel its effect. This is something that teachers expect with every senior class, and most are used to what it incorporates. Although many have not started to see it occur this early in the school year, they are not looking forward to when it starts to set in.

"Every year it seems that seniors start to slack off earlier in the school year. They just start to not give any effort to school, and it is a constant battle to make a lesson plan that is fun for the kids, while still academic," Daniel Jaeger, German teacher, said.

Even though seniors are excited to leave Homestead, for many it is a bittersweet ending. The dreams of all of the freedoms of college are exciting to look forward to, but all of the friends and experiences are hard to leave.

"I have had great teachers my whole Homestead experience, and will miss all of the great times that I had at Homestead," Wilson said.

SPORTS

overlooked girls' field events contribute to team's overall success, 7a

page 6a
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Boys' Track

Aboite Softball League

Girls' Track

Monday, May 4, 2009

Athletes' seasons continue after end of school games

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

After the buzzer sounds to end the last game of the season, for some athletes another season is only beginning. It is not uncommon to see numerous athletes participating on traveling sports teams after the high school season has ended. These travel teams come in a variety of sports, including basketball, baseball and soccer.

Most of the travel basketball teams play in what is known as the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). One local AAU team is the Police Athletic League (PAL) Elite team. Jay Curry (11) and Andy Phillipe (11), who played for the boys' varsity basketball team this past winter, play for PAL Elite after the high school season ends. From this past weekend to the end of July, the team will play in nine tournaments in the Fort Wayne area and Kentucky. The team has already traveled to West Virginia as well.

"Being on the PAL team is a cool and fun experience," Curry said. "I like being able to travel around the country and see how many good players there are."

The most well-known travel baseball team in Fort Wayne is the Fort Wayne Cubs. Chuck Weaver (12), Mace Beech (12), Ryan Copley (12) and Patrick Veerkamp (12) all played for the Cubs over the past summer. Though the players only recently joined the Cubs, they previously played for the Aboite Braves. Many members of the varsity baseball team played for the Braves at some point in their youth, as the team was the prominent travel team in the Aboite area.

"We travel all over the place and are usually really successful," Copley said. "Playing with the same guys for awhile makes it easier to play."

Perhaps the most popular area travel sport is soccer. In Fort Wayne, there are a number of travel soccer teams, including Citadel FC, Fort Wayne Sport Club and the Fort Wayne Fever. Many members of the girls' varsity soccer team participate on these teams. Alex Beuker (11), Sammy Scaringelli (11), Kate Bienz (12) and a number of others play for Fort Wayne Sport Club. All of the girls have been playing together on travel teams for over seven years, which has improved their high school team's chemistry.

"Knowing the girls for so long and being able to have a relationship on and off the field with them makes us like family," Kelsi Stephens (10) said. "It's really fun to play against girls on high school teams that I met through the travel team."

These teams are almost always playing in tournaments across the region during weekends and the summer. The teams are also usually very successful in these tournaments, usually placing in the top three. The Fort Wayne Sport Club teams begin playing during the winter, with the first tournament starting at The Dome.

While it is tough to have a high school season come to an end, some athletes look forward to the travel season because they get to be with a number of teammates from many different schools. To some, the travel season is when the real season commences. As the offseason hits, some athletes think to themselves, "Let the games begin."

new LEADERSHIP, *same* DETERMINATION

Departure of Shenfeld, loss of last year's seniors affect boys' track team

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

For the past 40 years, a local track meet without Dick Shenfeld roaming from event to event seemed impossible. Now, having Shenfeld on the sidelines is just a memory. Shenfeld, who had been the boys' varsity track coach for a total of 40 years, retired after last season, leaving the team to move on without him.

Jeff Livensparger took over for Shenfeld this year after having been an assistant coach in past years. Under a new coach, the way practices have been run has changed.

"This year practice is longer and we do more team stretching. I think Coach Shenfeld made practice more fun. He was laid back and liked to have fun with us. I definitely wish he would have retired after this year instead of last year," Colin Lyman (12) said.

Lyman, a senior captain this year, had been coached by Shenfeld for three years. Lyman runs the 400-meter and 800-meter events.

"Shenfeld had an infinite amount of running knowledge. He also knew the ins and outs of the track meets. He was to Homestead track what Joe Paterno is to Penn State football; Coach Shenfeld was the face of Homestead track," Lyman said.

Lyman and teammate Kyle Beutler (12) still stay in touch with Shenfeld. In the hallways, Beutler is asked by Shenfeld how his 200-meter event times are.

"I see Shenfeld around the hallways and he always asks how I'm running. When you are retired, it is still hard to not keep in touch with your old runners and the sport you love," Beutler said.

Joel Sluyter (12) participates in the high jump event for the team; he also noticed a change in practices with the introduction of a new coach.

"Practice has not changed for better or for worse; it is just different. Coach Livensparger is more focused on team unity so that is a change. We all miss Shenfeld, but the team is starting to warm up to Livensparger," Sluyter said.

Last year, the team went undefeated until they got to the regional competition, where it failed to qualify for the state competition. High jumper Joel Sluyter was the only member to qualify for the state finals individually last year.

"This year I hope to place at outdoor state and I would like to attempt to break the school record this year as well," Sluyter said.

This year's team not only lost Shenfeld, but also lost key seniors including Jacob Weide ('08), Ross Heckber ('08) and Michael Townsend ('08).

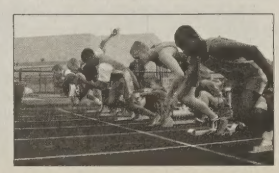
"Heckber was a key loss for us; everyone else was replaced, though. Our freshmen are still developing, but Clay Heckber (10) is throwing varsity for shot put," Lyman said.

This year's 4x800-meter relay team is aiming for the school record. The relay team consists of Lyman, Beutler, Evan Hanley (12) and Connor O'Shaughnessy (11).

"Last year our relay team ran (a time of) 8:05, and the school record is 8:02. We can definitely slim our time down three seconds and break the school record," Lyman said.

Next up for the team are the North Side Relays, which are the first big test of the season.

With Livensparger's new leadership and the memories of Shenfeld still fresh in the minds of the team, a possible combination of old-school and new-school techniques could be the recipe for a run at state.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES WALTER

Top: Scott Harrison (12) aims during windup for the shotput. Above: Runners push off the starting blocks during the 100 meter dash. Below: Colin Lyman (12) leads Connor O'Shaughnessy (11) during a race at a DeKalb meet.

PITCHER PERFECT

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

This past Monday, April 27, girls' varsity softball pitcher Jaqui Matheis (12) threw hers, and Homestead's first ever perfect game. In order for a game to be considered perfect, no opposing team members may make it onto base after hitting. The team won an 8-0 shutout against the East Noble Lady Knights. While Matheis threw seven strikeouts, she said, "It's neat to say I have pitched a perfect game, but it was definitely a team effort. Everyone was playing really well on Monday, so that made it easier for me to do well."

Jenkins, golf team aim for state

Jennings, acquisition of Wawasee transfer pushes Spartans into season

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

They stand 6'7" and 180 pounds and 5'8" and 160 pounds, respectively. They are the one-two punch for the boys' varsity golf team. Even though they are almost opposites when it comes to size, these two golfers know what it takes to play on the links.

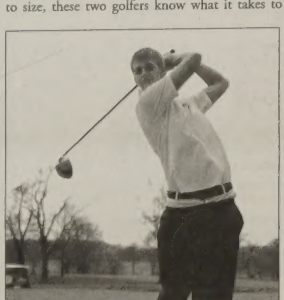


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Michael Jenkins (12), a transfer student from Wawasee, follows through on a drive at Orchard Ridge. He is enjoying his new team atmosphere and home course.

The proven Al Jennings (11) placed ninth at state last year as sophomore, but his taller counterpart has been getting the buzz lately. Michael Jenkins (12), a recent transfer from Wawasee High School, decided he would love to be a Spartan golfer at the start of his senior year. He made it to state last year as a Warrior, and now he is looking to repeat this feat as a Spartan.

"The atmosphere [at Homestead] is nicer, more golf-like. Orchard Ridge is one of the most prestigious country clubs in the entire state and to get to play on that [course] everyday is great. With the guys, I feel more at home and I'm enjoying it more," Jenkins said.

With a new team comes new responsibility, and Jenkins, being one of the few seniors on the team, believes that the team needs to come together and play as one if they want to try to win a state title.

"Making it to state is challenging every year and it takes hard work and dedication to the game to get that far," Jenkins said. "We have the talent to potentially win state, but it won't be handed to us. We have to work harder than ever before and set our goals high."

Now that Jenkins and Jennings are on the same team, they are no longer competitors as in years past. According to Jenkins, competing with Jennings every day at practice will be great. The confidence is beaming through the senior.

"We're not going to lose a match with our lineup and our on- two punch [of Jenkins and Jennings]. The season will be very exciting. Competing against Al for years has always been fun, but now that we are on the same team, it'll be hard to not still compete with him."

The differing playing styles of these two golfers is clearly evident on the course. While Jenkins is more of a risk taker, Jennings's mental state keeps him focused on being the best golfer he can be and making the right shots when needed. Along with Jenkins and Jennings, the golf team will rely on Grant Sawyers (12), Brock Rohlfing (12) and Jon Finley (10) to carry the team.

As a result of his talent, Jenkins has the opportunity to continuing playing golf at the next level in college.

"I want to play in college and I've been talking to the IPFW coach lately. A Wawasee player that I grew up with will be there too so that's what I would like to do. I like the game too much to give it up now," Jenkins said.

The golf team's acquisition of Jenkins has proved to be a boost in morale and an addition of a good teammate, but as the season is now underway, only time will tell if he can lead the team to a state title.

beyond the track

Field events feel unrecognized despite point contribution to overall girl's team score

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

While events such as the 100-meter dash and the various relays draw attention to star runners, events not so well known, such as shot put and discus, win track meets. Of the 16 events that girl's track and field consists of, field events and hurdles largely go unnoticed.

"[Field events] are really important," Meghan Terrell (12), co-captain, said. "In order to win, we need all the points we can get, so the more points we get from our field events then the more meets we can win."

Much will be expected of the returning field competitors as the team begins their outdoor season. The long jump duo of Kelli Beutler (11) and Elena Schmidt (11), both of whom failed to make it past sectionals last year, will be relied upon to pick up much needed field points. This year, Beutler will continue to long jump while Schmidt will high jump.

"They will be a big part of the success we have in our field events," Coach Amy Barnes said. "Not only will they score points, but they are great leaders in helping the new girls learn the events and also encouraging them."

Of the nine events that the track team qualified for regionals, just one was a field event. Erin Quinn ('08) was the team's pole-vaulter. After watching Quinn advance in a very tough field event, the new pole-vaulters are looking to try to match Quinn's success.

"[Quinn] did really well last year," Chloe Smith (11), a pole-vaulter, said. "I don't know if I will be able to match her success, but I'm improving every time."

Much of the team's success will be placed on Whitney Neal (10), the team's discus thrower. Neal, who competed last year on the varsity team, expects to have a stronger year and improve on last season's success.

"I think I feel more pressure to do well [this year] because there is only one other girl throwing for us this year, so we want to still place high and help out our team by getting points," Neal said.

Along with the field events, hurdling events also lack attention compared to other events in girl's track. Both the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles gained many points for last year's team. However, the team is now looking to different people to fill the gaps left by last year's graduating hurdlers.

This year's team has expectations to far outdo what last's year's team did. Last year's team placed fourth in sectionals and fifteenth in regionals, and had just six athletes from the team graduate.

"I think we will grow as a team," Schmidt, co-captain, said. "Hopefully we can do better than last year and win a lot of meets."

The team finished last in their opening outdoor track meet against Huntington North and state-ranked Northrop. Northrop, which is currently ranked eighteenth in the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches poll, won the meet, taking 90.5 of the 167 points.

"We definitely have things to improve on, but for our first meet against some very good teams we did okay," Smith said.

While the team struggled in their opening meet, the team will compete against just one more state ranked opponent, Carroll. The relatively weak NHC should benefit the team and help them improve on last year's fourth place performance.

While pole vaulting at Tuesday's meet against Carroll, Chloe Smith (11) pushes herself over the bar to advance to the next height.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Tradition provides comfort for sports fans

Chaos has ensued on the court at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Members of the team dressed in stars and stripes are dashing across the gym floor after the referee. A bucket is in the hands of the players as they chase down the poor zebra. Confetti has already been thrown on one section of the crowd by these same players. This bucket looks similar to the one before it, so the ref seems to let sown his guard. Wrong choice. Next thing the crowd knows, the referee is drenched as the Harlem Globetrotters dash away laughing and ridiculing the foolish ref for falling for their 82-year old water bucket trick.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

It is events like these that make the world of sports special. Fans of all sports are familiar with many of the most famous sports traditions of all time. Because the dependability of sporting events is so great, certain traditions, events, teams and causes have been able to survive the test of time. Without a sense of security and comfort, sports fans would have to essentially hit the restart button before every season. The die-hards would lose the common ground of unity with other fans.

In the current world of marketing and merchandising, many sports teams and clubs are losing their sense of tradition. Because many owners feel that the main purpose of a sports franchise is to make money, new uniforms, new stadiums, new colors and new players are being added or subtracted annually to and from many teams. Teams are losing that traditional identity that the founders of the organization tried to form so many years ago.

Some teams have a solid understanding of tradition. The New York Yankees and Chicago Cubs of Major League Baseball have used the same uniforms for decades now, whereas the Tampa Bay Rays have had three different sets of uniforms in their ten-year existence. The NBA has seen the same thing. Teams like the Atlanta Hawks, Washington Wizards and Milwaukee Bucks have changed team colors, even though these franchises had kept the same colors for almost forty years at a time beforehand.

With many teams selling off the naming rights to their new stadiums or arenas, it doesn't seem as if this loss of tradition will end in the near future. Money controls everything in today's sports world, and that is a sad thing. When teams are trying harder to sell the jerseys in their gift shops than the seats in their stadium, there is something terribly wrong.

Teams like the Yankees, Cubs, Chicago Bulls (NBA), Green Bay Packers (NFL) and Boston Celtics (NBA) are keeping the tradition of the sporting world on life support. These teams have found that new colors, new stadiums and new logos will not give their organization a better chance to win games. They have found the ingredients to the recipe for success.

Take the Globetrotters, for example. They have had the same red, white and blue stars and stripes-clad uniforms for over eight decades, and they have won over 22,000 games in their existence. Oh, did I mention that they have lost fewer than 350 games, as well? It seems that this globetrotting team from Harlem found the right balance between tradition and merchandising. Now, if only I could only get the Globetrotters to perform the water-bucket trick on sports league managers. They could use a splash of water to the face.

Fun, relaxed atmosphere attracts girls to play in summertime Aboite Softball League

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

Most people associate the word sports with words such as competition, rivalry, endurance, and stamina. In any game there is always the triumphant winner and the distressed loser. Rarely does one hear a varsity athlete relate practices and conditioning with the term fun. But unlike those varsity athletes, the girls who play in the Aboite Softball League have fun in most aspects of their practices and games.

"I've played ASL since 4th grade and it's fun to spend time with your friends when you're out of school and not thinking about homework and grades," Jenna Hoppe (9) said.

The Aboite Softball League is a slow-pitch softball league for girls all the way from t-ball to high school. Although there is a league tournament at the end of season for all of the teams, it is a club based on equality and fun.

"I really like it because it's just for fun and some of my friends play," Kimberly Bautz (9) said. "It gives me something to do in the summer."

Additionally, many girls feel that the league is a social activity for the summer months.

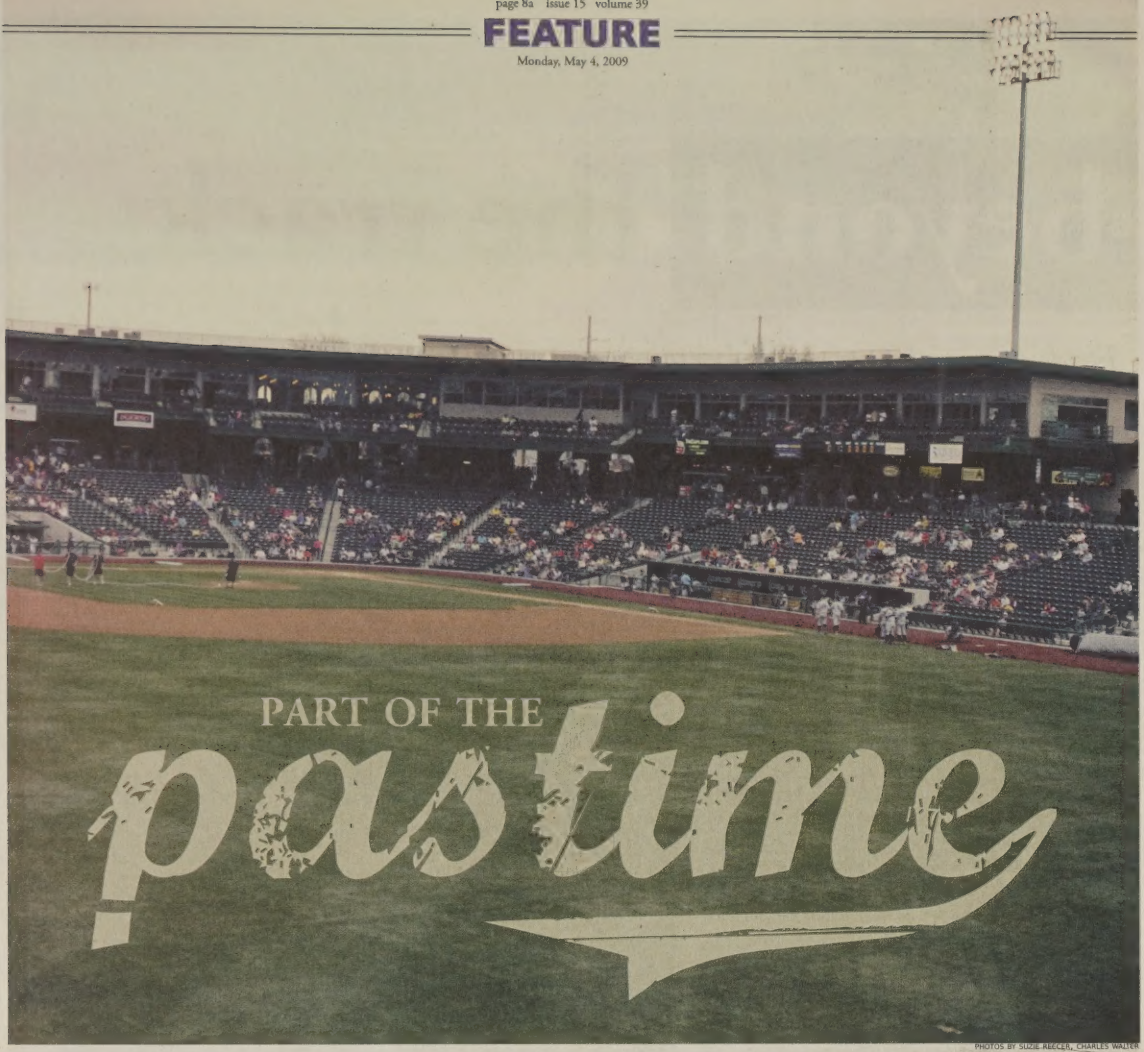
"I play in the Aboite Softball League because it's the off season of basketball and it's more fun when there's not cuts so all your friends can make the teams," Hoppe (9) said. "I love that we play with our friends and play against them. During the game we try to psyche each other out but after the game we shake hands and give hugs."

The main difference between fast-pitch softball and slow-pitch softball, aside from the pace of the pitch, is the level of competition. The ASL is a recreational, parent-run league that focuses on teaching the principles of softball, teamwork and sportsmanship while having fun. Everyone in the league bats and there is free substitution on the field. The rules state that every girl must play at least one inning in the infield and one in the outfield by the end of the fourth inning. Unlike the ASL, the local fast-pitch league has a group of different rules; the fast-pitch teams play to win.

"Fast-pitch is way more competitive," Bautz said. "It's not like a varsity sport. There are no 'do or die' games. I mean we want to win, but it's not a big deal if we lose."

Fun is something many varsity sports may have forgotten, but the Aboite Softball League knows how to make games, practices, and the sport of softball fun for everyone. Practices aren't for running teams to death and games aren't only for winning titles; it is all for fun and the love of the game. Without those elements, there would be no players, coaches, or fans to keep sports entertaining.

Top: Ally Brown (9) warms up with her sister Ashton (12), shown left.



PART OF THE pastime

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER, CHARLES WALTER

New downtown venue for TinCaps baseball provides entertainment, jobs for community

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

Driving down Jefferson Road through Fort Wayne, one would witness an atmosphere filled with innovation and modern modifications. With hopes of drawing people to the city, Fort Wayne City officials have been working hard to improve the downtown area for the past few years, rebuilding both the Main Library and the Grand WayneCenter. However, although the addition of these buildings helped attract residents, a project far larger—and consequently more controversial—was in the making: Parkview Field.

While the proposal for the ballpark was not initially well received by the public, the plan was pursued, and in 2007, construction for the new baseball stadium began. Since its completion as the home of the Fort Wayne TinCaps, fans have flooded downtown to visit the innovative venue and enjoy America's favorite pastime.

"I am excited to see how the stadium does in a couple of years, because it is a great new opportunity for Fort Wayne," Grant Rowan (12), a TinCaps Merchandise vendor, said. "The old stadium was starting to not look so nice, and this one turned out great."

> "I AM EXCITED TO SEE HOW THE STADIUM DOES IN A COUPLE OF YEARS, BECAUSE IT IS A GREAT NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR FORT WAYNE. THE OLD STADIUM WAS STARTING TO NOT LOOK SO NICE, AND THIS ONE TURNED OUT GREAT."
> -GRANT ROWAN (12)
> TINCAPS MERCHANDISE VENDOR

Compared to the old Memorial Coliseum stadium, Parkview Field was built with the intent of allowing spectators to see the game from almost every angle. The fan-friendly ballpark includes shops and over 50 concession kiosks that require little walking and still allow the visitors to watch the game while making their purchases. At a first glance, the new field of the TinCaps appears smaller than the Memorial Stadium, the former home of Fort Wayne's minor league baseball team; however, looks can be deceiving. Whereas Memorial Stadium had a crammed capacity of 6,300, the new downtown field can hold around 8,000.

At Parkview Field, the excitement is contagious with fans chanting "Hey batter, batter, batter," before each crack of the bat. Everyone is energized, and every time a batter steps up to the plate, "the wave" does a circle around the stadium, showing the positive feedback towards the new team. Adding to the experience, everything at the stadium is TinCap-themed. From the green and red trash cans to the ice cream bowls, to the new apple mascot with a tin cap walking around the park, fans find ways to engage in team spirit in every way possible.

"At first I thought the TinCaps name was pointless, but now it's growing on me," Melissa Kay (12), a ticket booth operator at Parkview Field, said. Kay feels the mascot is more "kid-friendly" and fits the city well.

While Harrison Square was not supported by Fort Wayne residents in the early stages, the attendance of the first few games suggests the ballpark may in fact be a positive aspect in reviving downtown. Some area high school students are looking forward to hanging out at the venue over the summer, while others see it as a place for potential jobs.

"At the local job fair, there were over 2,000 applications to work here, and only 200 jobs to fill," Karen Schieber, TinCaps Merchandise Manager, said. "When applying for a job we were looking for people that like working, are outgoing, have a good personality and like to work with other people. This is an excellent first job for people because they get to experience working around people, organization and handling money. Also it is fun for teenagers, because they get to watch the ball game."

Along with free admission to games, there are other perks to working at Parkview Field.

"When we are working, we get half off on the food, which is great, because then on our breaks we can get food and not have to pay full price," Molly Hinderman (11), who primarily works in The Kid Zone, said. "I picked this job as a summer job because I love to work with kids and other people."

From supervising restless kids jumping on The Kid Zone moon bounce to running the pitching and batting cages, Hinderman's responsibilities change from day to day. The children's' area also includes play equipment and a rock wall. With numerous available tasks at the field adding to the fun ballpark atmosphere, jobs at the new field provide solid summer employment opportunities for students who are busy during the school year.

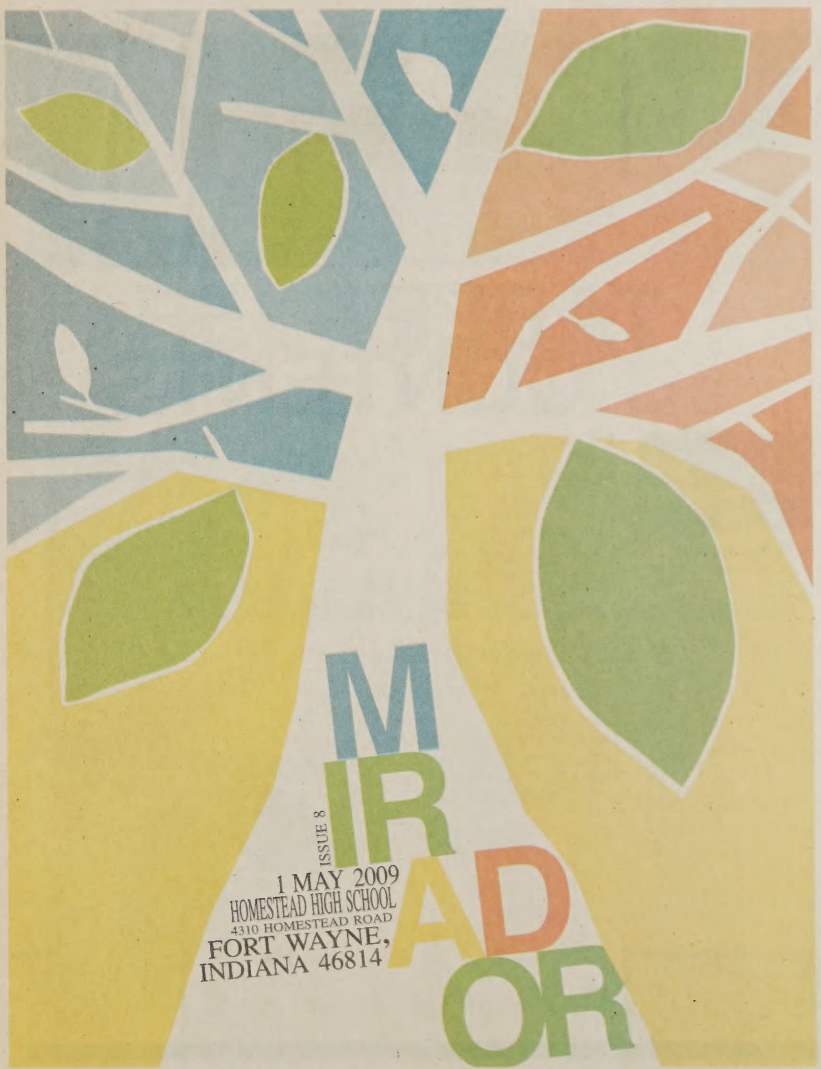
"This job was great for me because I wanted to work somewhere that was sports-oriented, and this is the beginning of the season for baseball, which lets me have this job all summer," Kay said.

The opening TinCaps game sold-out in 27 minutes, with over 500 standing room only tickets sold to anxious fans. With excitement increasing at every crack of the bat, the TinCaps management hopes that fans continue their great support of the team and other events at Harrison Square. For students who enjoy sports and working with others, a job at Harrison Square next summer might be one to consider, but for everyone around Fort Wayne, Parkview Field is sure to provide quality entertainment.

BACK HOME AGAIN

Every day between tomorrow and next Sunday there will be a home TinCaps game at Parkview Field.
Monday, May 4 at 7:05 p.m.
Tuesday, May 5 at 7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, May 6 at 11:05 a.m.
Thursday, May 7 at 7:05 p.m.
Friday, May 8 at 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, May 9 at 4:05 p.m.
Sunday, May 10 at 3:05 p.m.
Saturday, May 16 at 4:05 p.m.
Sunday, May 17 at 3:05 p.m.

Top: The new Parkview Field can hold between 8,000 and 9,000 people. Second Top: Feeding the ball machine, Molly Hinderman (11) works in The Kid Zone during each home game. Top Left: Michael Willey (9), Haylie Miller (9), and Chase Payne (10) enjoy the game from their spots on the lawn. Left: Folding a new shirt for fans, Grant Rowan (12) works to keep the merchandise in order at the TinCaps store.



ISSUE 8
1 MAY 2009
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
4310 HOMESTEAD ROAD
FORT WAYNE,
INDIANA 46814

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Right-brained: A student looks at sketches by Michael Buchanan (11), seen in the Fine Arts Gallery during Spring Arts Week (pg. 7).

TABLE of CONTENTS

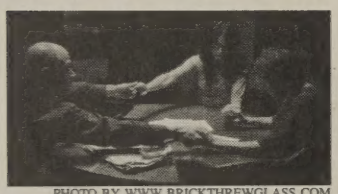


PHOTO BY WWW.BRICKTHREWGLASS.COM

Movie Review: Perhaps viewers should turn away from the east coast to avoid this predictable downer (pg. 13).

3 The Many Moods of Dr. Hensley

5 Fine Arts Gallery

9 Radical Recreation

11 Curbside Creep

12 Dialogue Dilemma

13 Movie Review: The Haunting in Connecticut

14 Video Game Review: Resident Evil 5

» **mir·a·dor (mr-dôr, -dr)**
n. a window, balcony, or turret designed to command a broad view

Editor in Chief: Stephanie Zimmerman
Associate Editor: Megan Herbert
Photographer: Suzie Reecer
Writers: Noah Gayer, Tess Anglin, Kati Vail, Cam Kaminski

Outside class: Right: Shoaff Park golf disc course (pg. 7). Below: Parking lot scares call for increased security (pg. 11).

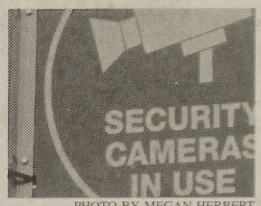


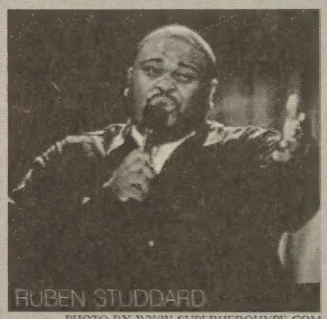
PHOTO BY MEGAN HERBERT

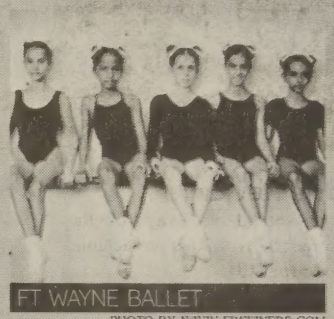
PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

RELEASES & EVENTS

STAR TREK
PHOTO BY WWW.CHANNEL4.COM

GREEN DAY
PHOTO BY WWW.SUPERMUSIC.SK


RUBEN STUDDARD
PHOTO BY WWW.SUPERHEROHYPE.COM


FT WAYNE BALLET
PHOTO BY WWW.FREEWEBS.COM

MOVIE RELEASES

5/1 X-Men Origins: Wolverines, Battle for Tera, Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, The Last Lullaby
5/8 Star Trek, Next Day Air, Little Ashes
5/15 Angels and Demons, Management, The Brothers Bloom, Summer Hours
5/21 Dance Flick, Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian, The Girlfriend Experience
5/22 Terminator Salvation

MUSIC RELEASES

5/5 Hatebreed, ISIS, Paul Potts, Yusuf Islam
5/15 Green Day
5/19 Eminem, Iggy Pop, Ruben Studdard
5/26 Marilyn Manson, Mandy Moore

CONCERTS

5/19 Elton John and Billy Joel (8 PM) Conseco Fieldhouse Indianapolis, $53.50-179.50
5/13 Disturbed (2 PM) Roberts Stadium Evansville, $78-407

ANGELS AND DEMONS
PHOTO BY WWW.AVAILABLEIMAGES.COM

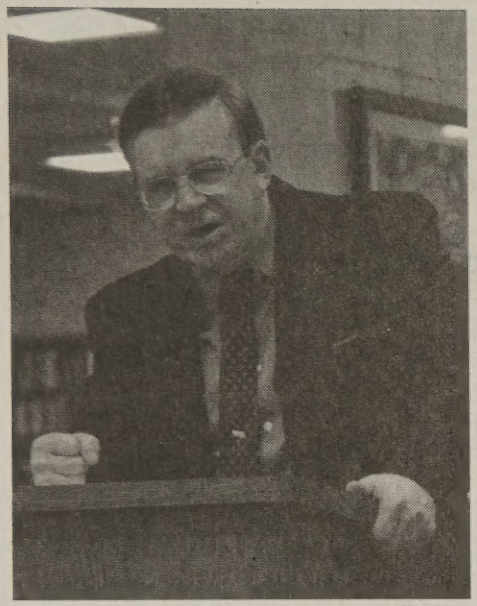
MEMORIAL COLISEUM

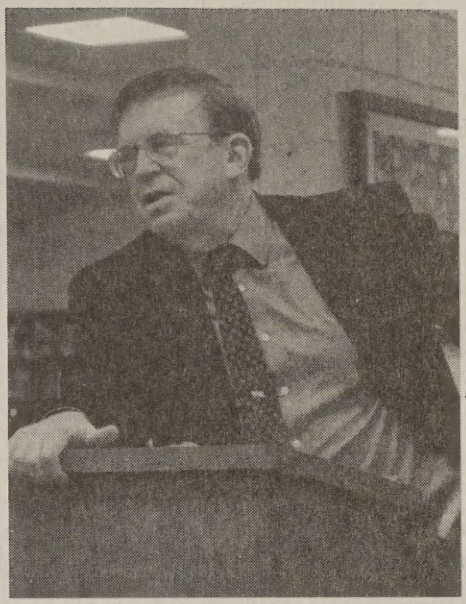
5/10 WWE Smackdown & ECW Live
5 PM, $17-57
5/30 Jeff Dunham "Spark of Insanity"
8 PM, $44.50

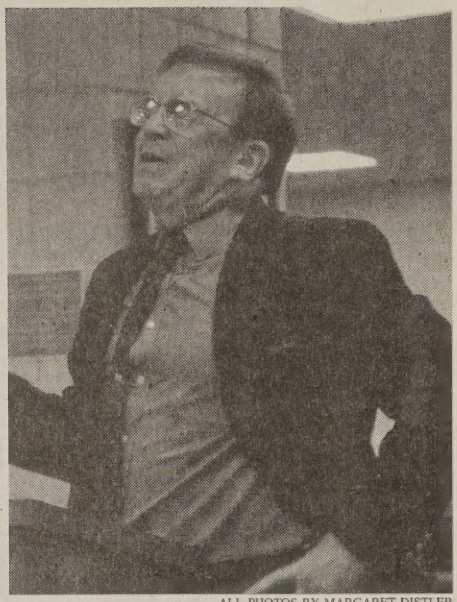
DANCING AT THE ZOO

Join the Fort Wayne Ballet Youth Company at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo to see a ballet peformance from the dance students
4/17 1 & 3 PM
F.W. Children's Zoo

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock? Come to my arms, my beamish boy! O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!" He chortled in his joy. 'Twas brillig,







ALL PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

THE MANY MOODS OF DR. DENNIS E. HENSLEY

Students read works, English teacher emphasizes "The Power of Words"

English Eats: Mr. Fisher listens as Dr. Hensley speaks to a group of students at dinner before the event.

BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN
WRITER

There are few people in this world that can make "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" seem as if it had come straight out of the mouth of Tupac. But when Dr. Dennis E. Hensley recited the famous Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem during a lecture in the IMC Thursday, April 23–tapping his hands against the podium in rhythm, extracting raw emotion out of the simplest words–he could have convinced a dead fish that poetry was cool.

Hensley, the director of the professional writing major at Taylor University, knew he wanted to be a writer when he took an Honors English class his senior year of high school in Bay, Michigan. Now–50 books and 3,000 newspaper and magazine articles later–he resides as one of the top authorities on literature in the Midwest, as well as a popular public speaker.

and the slithy toves, Did gyre and gimble in the wabe; All mimsy were the borogroves, and the mome raths outgrabe." -Lewis Carroll, "Jabberwocky"

So, he was an obvious choice to call when English teacher Connie Christophersen and Alpha Parent volunteer Carla Overdahl wanted to organize a night for students to share their work. They wanted to allow students to gain some insight into professional writing and step away from, according to Overdahl, the "solitude" normally associated with creative writing.

"Dr. Hensley was one of the greatest speakers I have ever heard," said Clark Trexler (12). "He was able to take practical lessons on writing and not only keep us awake, but keep us interested as well–a genuine original."

Part of Hensley's appeal lies in his ability to blend a series of stories, anecdotes, and humor to illustrate his points.

To emphasis the importance of the sound, rhythm, cadence, denotation and connotation of writing, Hensley recited a poem by Lewis Carroll. Originally seen in Carroll's novel "Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There," the poem, "Jabberwocky"–not to be confused with America's Best Dance Crew–was written in a way to stress the importance of sounds.

Carroll purposely made up over half of the words in the poem, so that the sounds that the words made would translate the meaning of the poem, not the actual meaning of the words. So, when Hensley recited the poem, uttering pure nonsense, his audience understood its message, even though they had no idea what a "borogrove" or a "Jabberwock" was.

Before Hensley spoke, ten senior AP Composition students, including Trexler, volunteered to read one of their literary works. The readings proved to be a new form of catharsis for some, as the emotion of the works–some of which focused on death and personal struggles–came out with each audible line.

Christy Tatara (12) read from an essay she had written, entitled "A Moment in Time," which traced her grandmother's memory loss after the onset of Alzheimer's. "Reading aloud put more meaning into my essay because I was able to tell people about the pain and fear," said Tatara. "Apparently, one lady cried during the reading."

> "Reading aloud put more meaning into my essay because I was able to tell people about the pain and fear of [my grandmother's] Alzheimer's."
> CHRISTY**TATARA(12)**

Other works, such as David Ramsey's (12) "Definition of the Second Fiddle," exacted a different response. Ramsey traced the struggle of popular video game character Luigi, who is cursed with an inferiority complex as a result of Mario's unyielding control of the limelight. "Kermit the Frog said that 'it's not easy being green,'" read Ramsey. "He had nothing on Luigi."

As the night wrapped up and all Mushroom Kingdom family feuds were put to rest for one more day, Hensley ended with an anecdote about a talented diver who traveled to the dangerous Acapulco cliff in Mexico, but could not muster up the courage to take the plunge.

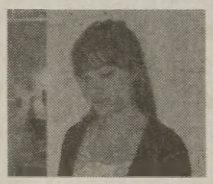
The point? "Never fear rejection," said Hensley. "Write a lot, find good people to critique and evaluate your writing and keep doing more."

SENIOR**WORKS**

Excerpts from the works of three of the ten seniors who participated in the readings:

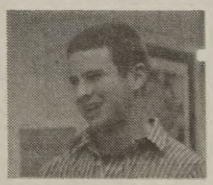
ALYCIA**MATZ**

"On close inspection, you may see the pale, sea green clay caked in the crevices underneath my fingernails, for I am never quite able to rid myself of all of it. Perhaps you may notice the entire color spectrum represented in the form of acrylic paint splatters on my clothing and skin. A more conspicuous sign may be the smears of the medium of the day–whether that be graphite, charcoal, or pastel–on the side of my hand and forearm, a result stemming from being left-handed. If that did not give it away, then surely the large, white portfolio I often tote around would provide a hint. Regardless, all signs point to one fact: I am an artist." **("Medium Through Medium")**



ANNA**ORLOW**

"I do what I should have done a long time ago; without caring or watching, I allow myself to cry. I neither hold back or exaggerate. My agony is pure. It is true. And the pain is the greatest suffering I have ever experienced." **("A Necessary Healing")**

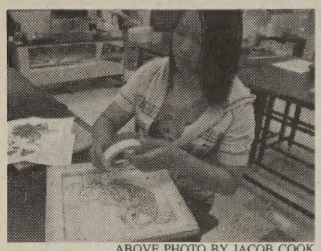


KYLE**LUITHLY**

"We are flames in the dark, lighting the way through our actions to lead this nation to safety. When all else fades, when the world is about to end not with a bang, but with a whimper, when darkness multiplies, fully intent on covering Liberty's flame, we are called in. It's an imperfect world, but it's the only one we have. We fight to protect all that is pure, all that is good and true. We are flames in the dark, freely choosing to sacrifice our lives to protect the lives of 300 million Americans. I am an American soldier." **("American Soldier")**

rising talent

Weave: Left: Baskets created by Joanna Nguyen (10) on display in the fine arts gallery. Below: Nguyen during art class.



ABOVE PHOTO BY JACOB COOK
LEFT PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

+ fine arts gallery

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

"There are no pressures or restrictions; you just do what you want. You always have your art, no matter what stage of life you're at. It's always there." -megan procise (11)

megan procise (11)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

"Painting is relaxing for me. Plus, I get to do whatever I want on a blank canvas. There aren't any limits or expectations–just freedom."

morgan beard (12)

"During the process, your work doesn't always look like much, but as you continue to put in the time and effort, repeatedly perfecting it, you begin to see your piece transform into the idea you had pictured in your mind. In the end, it is just a great feeling to see the finished result."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

clea endres (12)

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

andrea dunn (12)

"I like being able to capture the moment and show people a new perspective to ordinary things."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

marce patrick (11)

"Art in itself allows me to express myself for who I am and what people can not see."

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

collette spears (12)

It's nice to be good at something that doesn't involve memorizing a bunch of facts and dates, but just comes naturally and easily."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

haley laudadio (12)

"Ceramics is a major stress reliever. It's really rewarding after a pot turns out well."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

caitlin kelley (12)

karen trexler (10)

"I hope to continue my art outside of high school. I'd love to make jewelry for a career, and I hope to work on it through college."

william gehring (11)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

On the edge: Jonathan Park (12) skates in the football stadium after school.

RADICAL recreation

BY TESS ANGLIN
WRITER

Boxed in: Zach Stine (12) and Mallory Harber (12) play at the downtown YMCA.

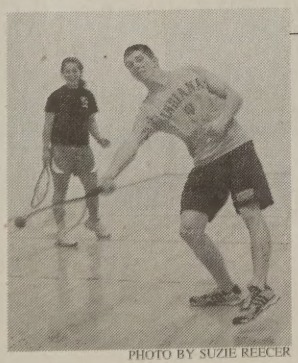


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

"Racquetball is a fun and easy way to exercise."
MALLORY **HARBER**

RACQUETBALL

Mallory Harber (12) first became interested in racquetball when she played it on "Y-night" for her youth group.

"Racquetball is a fun and easy way to exercise," Harber explains. Racquetball is played with two to four people and the courts are easily accessible at the downtown YMCA on Berry Street. Harber suggests playing first with someone who has enough experience to "show you the ropes" before you attempt it yourself.

IN-LINE HOCKEY

In-line hockey is played with teams of four and is very similar to ice hockey, minus the ice and off sides and with roller blades replacing the typical ice skates. "In-line hockey is fun because you can just play around and not be competitive," says Casey Spurgeon (11), who plays in-line hockey at the Plex. "Plus, it is really cheap." He says he enjoys the league at the Plex because of its laid-back atmosphere and the casual approach to a fun sport.

STICK&PUCK**NIGHTS**
Location: The Plex
Time: 7-9 PM
Cost: $8 for pickup game, $125 for league play; includes jersey and playoffs
Contact: Brandon West, (260)496-9999 ext.43

PHOTO BY PHOTOSOFHOCKEY.COM

Plex: The Plex is the only facility in Fort Wayne that offers in-line hockey leagues for all ages and skill levels.

PHOTO BY NORTHALLEGHENY.COM

CRICKET

Cricket originated in England, and is now played in over 100 countries. Cricket is played between two teams of eleven players and follows rules similar to baseball. Ani Yalamanchali (10) enjoys playing cricket in his free time, first playing in India. But when Yalmanchali plays cricket, he doesn't really keep score, but "just hits around."

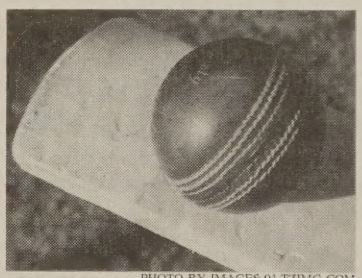
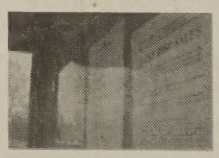


PHOTO BY IMAGES.01.TZIMG.COM

PHOTOS BY STEPH ZIMMERMAN



Fore: Above: Sara Parker (12) and Chelsea Hanauer (12) play a round of disc golf at Shoaff Park. Left: A display for the Fort Disc Golf League informs members of upcoming tournaments.

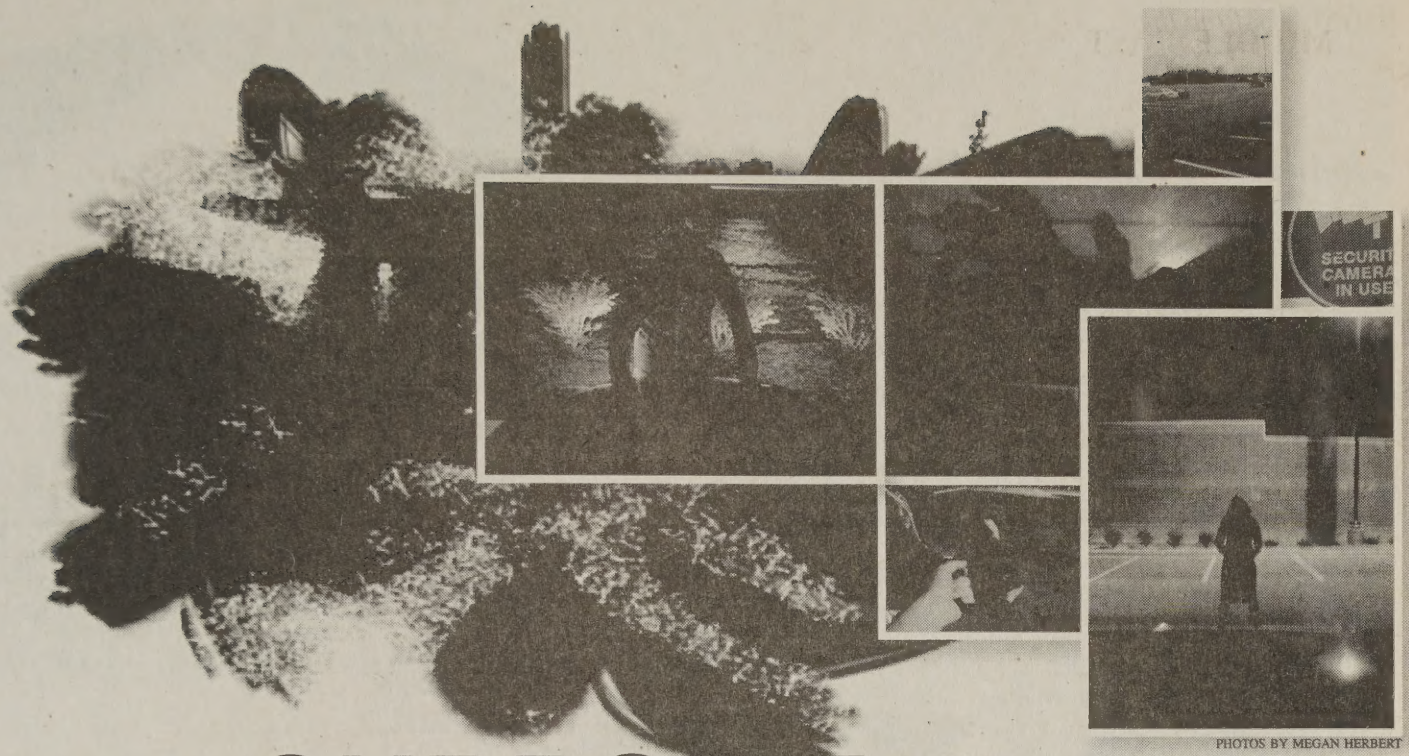
DISC GOLF

Disc golf is similar to regular golf; both have courses with 9 or 18 holes with the same scoring system. The main difference is that a Frisbee replaces the golf ball and a basket or target replaces the hole. Alastair Dawson (12) is an occasional disc golfer who first began playing with friends in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"Just like it took a unique person to invent basketball, it took a unique person to invent disc golf. I would have said it was kind of strange, but look where it is today!"
JASON**SMITH**
Pro Disc Golf Player

Jason Smith, a professional disc golf player in Fort Wayne, has been a professional player for four years. Smith is amazed with the growing popularity of disc golf and hopes that it will continue to grow. Smith said that a league for beginners now starting at Shoaff Park is a great place to start. The league provides an opportunity to play against yourself and challenge yourself to improve while just having fun.

"Disc golf is more challenging than regular golf, because of the mental aspects of trying to dodge the trees and staying in bounds," Smith explains.



PHOTOS BY MEGAN HERBERT

CURBSIDE *CREEPS*

Scary experiences legitimize claims about dangers of parking lots

BY MEGAN HERBERT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The roads are a scary place for new drivers. High school students go from riding the bus and being chauffeured by their parents to driving on their own, forced to fend for themselves. Parents will always say "drive safe" and "be careful," but who listens to that when the road is waiting?

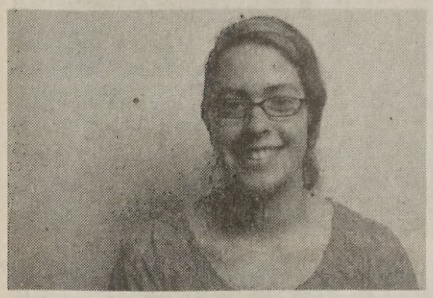
Every new driver starts out slightly paranoid: checking every mirror, stopping on every yellow light, and just barely driving over the speed limit. But as time passes, and drivers become more relaxed, a certain carefree manner sets in. This is when trouble starts to brew. Even when it comes to going in and out of stores, especially malls, danger can await drivers who become ignorant of their surroundings.

Chelsea Peters (11) was shopping in Scotts when she noticed a group of Hispanic men following her. Rushing through her purchase, the men followed her to her car. Nothing came of the incident, but Peters was shaken. "I was like holy crap, I hope they don't kill me," said Peters, "and I got in my car and drove away really fast."

Some, like Molly Harber (12), have developed plans for avoiding potential threats. It was just getting dark when Harber was driving to a friend's house. She swerved on the road and the driver behind her started to follow her and flash his lights.

After about ten minutes of this, Harber pulled into a fire station. While she was calling the fire station to get the firemen to come and confront the man, the driver tried to get in her car. "It was probably the scariest thing ever because this guy was following me for no reason and I didn't know what he was going to do," said Harber.

Becky Katz (11) found out about an active sexual predator named Jerry Kevin Hillegas through an e-mail to her mom. She says that Hillegas drives a 2006 Hyundai Gallant that is light blue. By flashing his lights, Hillegas gets girls to pull over, and then he abducts, rapes, and stabs his victims. After he was seen cruising around the Homestead and Huntington North High School parking lots, numerous calls for student awareness followed. "Watch out for this guy!" said Katz. So when walking to your car, just take a look around before driving off. You never know what dangers lurk around the corner.



"They never use the word 'is.' It's perfectly acceptable and grammatically correct to say "she student" in Hebrew."

The Dialogue Dilemma

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

I came to Israel for a semester knowing an embarrassingly little amount of Hebrew. Even though I had studied the language for years at Sunday School, I guess I learned more prayer book Hebrew than practical words. When I stepped off the plane here in January, my vocabulary arsenal included words such as "cucumber," "hello," and "peace," and the lone phrase "how much does it cost?" I didn't even know how to ask for a bathroom, so it was not a surprise when getting around the country without knowing the language proved to be a challenge.

As part of my American high school program, we have conversational Hebrew class for nearly two hours every day. There are about a dozen levels of Hebrew studies offered, because the students range from teens who are fluent to those kids, like me, who basically need to start from the beginning. To place us in the correct class, we took a five-page Hebrew test in the middle of January. I can confidently say that I could write my name and identify the phrase "good morning" on the first half of page one. That was all.

I've studied languages before: Latin briefly and Spanish more seriously. I was able to learn those fairly quickly. That's not the case with Hebrew. One of the biggest challenges with Hebrew is that it lacks some of the standard conventions that English has. The language is written from right to left. No capital or lowercase letters are used, and a different set of characters are utilized. They never use the word "is." It's perfectly acceptable and grammatically correct to say "she student" in Hebrew.

But I want to be able to speak the language well. Every time we go out, I always try, and fail, to converse in Hebrew. I always seem to get the gender of my verb mixed up, immediately giving away my poor language skills. Likewise, I have such an obvious American accent that Israelis don't even bother talking to me in Hebrew because it's easier for everyone if they just speak in English. I did feel a sense of accomplishment recently when going to a frozen yogurt store and correctly ordering the fruit flavors in Hebrew. My limited skills also were sufficient to explain to a cab driver how to get me where I was going to in Jerusalem. Despite my small vocabulary and conversational skills, I'm working hard to get better.

In the meantime, the only thing going for me in this situation is that most people in Israel speak English. Starting in first or second grade, Israeli kids begin to learn English in public school. All of the road and street signs are in Hebrew, Arabic, and English, so I can figure out where we are without too much trouble. The grocery store is a bit harder because much of the packaging is in Hebrew, but at least my favorite Oreo cookie labels are still in English. And, of course, my vocabulary now includes how to ask for a bathroom. Necessity helps inspire language learning.

BASIC**HEBREW**

HELLO: Shalom
YES: Ken
NO: Lo
THANKS: Toda
COOL: Sababa
GOOD MORNING: Boker tov
BITE ME: Kfotz li
FLOOSY: Frecha
GEEK: Laflaf
CONGRATULATIONS: Mazal tov
FIRE!: Esh

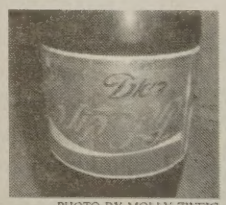


PHOTO BY MOLLY ZWEIG

Drink to that: A Diet Coke, labeled in Hebrew.

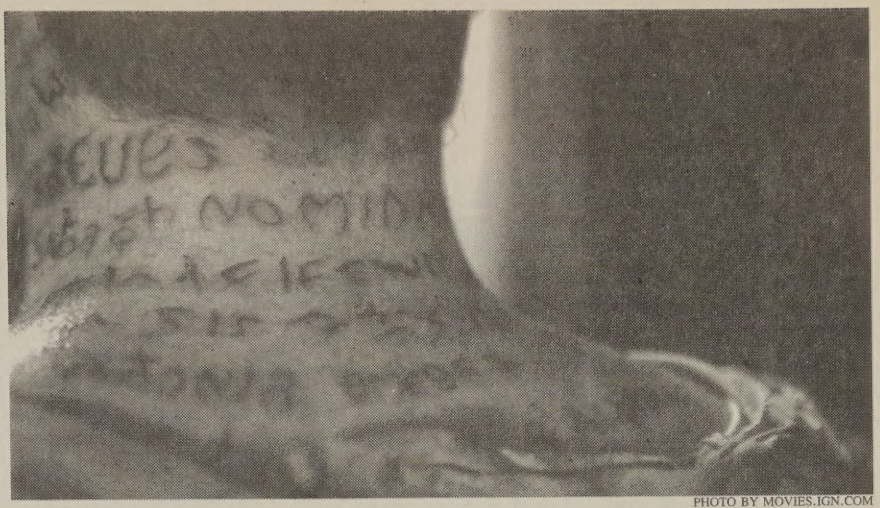


PHOTO BY MOVIES.IGN.COM

Medical trauma: An experimental cancer treatment program leads to a fatal tragedy.

haunting in CONNECTICUT

New horror movie based on a true story proves to be predictable dud

PHOTO BY SCREENHEAD.COM

Deadly move: The Campbell family moves into a haunted house that leads to hallucinations.

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

Nothing is as it seems in Connecticut. Except when it comes to "The Haunting in Connecticut," where every character, plot line, and thunderstorm seems to be the culmination of every horror film made in the past thirty years.

The "Haunting in Connecticut" follows the story of the Campbell family. The son, Matt, is undergoing an experimental cancer treatment far from home. Matt's parents decide that the best thing for Matt is to move closer to the hospital, so his mother goes hunting for a home in Goatswood, Connecticut. She finds a cheap rental home that seems too good to be true, but the landlord notes that the house has "history."

The Campbells get a little more than they bargained for, pun intended, when they move into the Victorian style home in upstate Connecticut. Matt begins having hallucinations, and the family finds out the home is a former funeral home fully equipped with a crematory and embalming room. He eventually realizes his hallucinations are more than just a product of his cancer treatment and the home's gruesome past is slowly revealed. While paranormal occurrences haunt each member of the Campbell family, a priest Matt met in the hospital tries to help the spirits that reside in the old funeral home. This leads to the predictable end as the family and the priest attempt to rid the house of its evil.

"The Haunting in Connecticut" is not the scariest movie out there, but it does a have a number of moments that will have viewers jumping out of their seats. The dark lighting produces a sinister ambiance. There are many disturbing photographs of corpses and flashing visions that Matt has, but these scenes can be overwhelming as well as slightly annoying because they are blurry and shaky. The film could have done with better music selections, though; the violin screeches at the typical moments only add to the predictable nature of the film.

Kyle Gallner expertly plays a close-to-death Matt, while Virginia Madsen and Martin Donovan appropriately depict stressed-out parents going through a separation and coping with a very sick son. Elias Koteas also adds to the film with his part as the reverend who tries to exorcise the home.

The main downfall of "The Haunting in Connecticut" is its overall predictability. The story is too typical in modern horror films. People move into a haunted house. One character finds out it is haunted, while the others gradually uncover the truth. A religious figure steps in to provide help, and there is an attempt to rid the house of its evil. Sound familiar?

The "Haunting in Connecticut" is just another mediocre horror film released to make a quick buck from teenagers. It has an overused story line with a bit of a twist, and it uses the deceiving "based on a true story" tool to pull in and falsely intrigue vulnerable lovers of horror. Those looking for a gory hack-and-slash motion picture should steer clear as should those looking for a movie worth the price of a matinee ticket. There is nothing extraordinary to find on this trip to Connecticut.

PHOTO BY WWW.BLOGS.INQUIRER.NET

Team play: Resident Evil 5 adopts a new cooperative strategy as the main player is paired up with a partner throughout the game.

RESIDENT EVIL 5

Capcom's latest addition to popular series refuses to disappoint

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

"Resident Evil...5!"

The phrase is uttered in a deep, raspy voice as the newest Resident Evil game loads up the main menu and a player hits the start button to continue the fight against the Umbrella Corporation's disastrous infection. This installment in the long-running series is rated M and has enough violence and blood to prove it. Unanswered questions from previous games are wrapped up, while new characters and enemies are introduced.

In Resident Evil 5, players assume the role of Chris Redfield, an agent of a militant anti-bioorganic weapons organization called the B.S.A.A. He travels wherever he is ordered to destroy creations of the infamous Umbrella Corporation, a former pharmaceutical company gone wrong with their disastrous genetic experiments. Chris goes to Africa to prevent Uroboros, a doomsday scheme. He arrives and meets Sheva Alomar, who becomes his partner.

The mechanics for Resident Evil 5 are similar to its predecessor. It takes time to get used to the controls of the game, which don't allow a player to move while shooting, but the majority of moves and actions are smooth. The computer animations–such as when a player drop kicks a zombie-like African villager and then turns 180-degrees to sprint away from an enemy with a chainsaw–are impressive.

The graphics in Resident Evil 5 show the extent of time the game's creators took to make all the textures smooth, without sacrificing the frame rate. Whether a grass hut, Chris' handgun or Sheva's wardrobe, everything in the game is polished and crisp. Some of the cut scenes are so graphically well done that it seems to be taken right out of a movie.

The Resident Evil series began as a survival horror game, but since Resident Evil 4, the series has transitioned into an action game with a handful of creepy enemies. Gore remains entertaining, especially when players are able to pop off enemy heads with the weapon of their choosing. Chris and Sheva both have signature moves to take out infected people with uppercuts, right hooks, kicks and stomps. The addition of a companion to fight with in Resident Evil 5 changes the experience dramatically. Sheva provides some help, but the only downfall to having a computer controlled partner is that she does not have a great deal of intelligence.

In the new co-op mode, another person can take over Sheva. This can be done in split-screen or online. The game also can be played with multiple players online, but can not compare to other multiplayer games on the market right now; it ceases to be entertaining after a few short hours.

Although the game mechanics are sometimes hard to get used to, Resident Evil 5 has stunning visuals and superb environments. It may not have the deepest story line, but when a game involves hoards of blood and the killing of masses of mangled mutants, a storyline is hardly needed to keep this game engaging. Resident Evil 5 is worth the purchase.

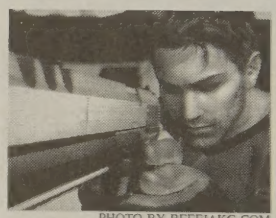
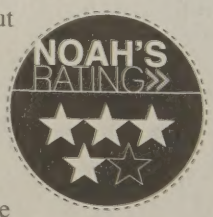


PHOTO BY BEEFJAKC.COM

Nuclear warfare: Main character Chris Redfield is an agent of a militant anti-bioorganic weapons organization called the B.S.A.A.



the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Monday, May 4, 2009

HOMESTEAD NOW

THE NUMBER 10

tons of carbon offset at Earthfest **4A**

4,000 vote 'Yes'

SACS taxpayers approve renewal of referendum by more than 2,000 votes **2A**

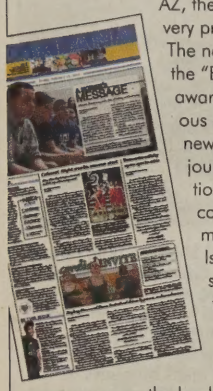
Ramsey nabs math nod

Senior David Ramsey gifted $1,500 scholarship award for mathematics at Sterling Sentinel ceremony **2A**

BRIEFS

NSPA BEST OF SHOW

At a scholastic convention that took place April 15 through 20 in Phoenix, AZ, the Spartana won a very prestigious award. The newspaper received the "Best in Show" award out of a numerous amount of other newspapers in the journalistic competition. Prior to the competition, staff members selected Issue 10 to represent them, which featured Devita Thompson's public service announcement for the lead news story along with a vivid display of the Get Fresh Dance Crew as the feature on the back.



SENIOR VARIETY SHOW

Any seniors interested in performing in the Variety Show during Senior Activities Day on Tuesday, May 26 are required to attend one of the two audition sessions next Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7 in the auditorium from 2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Please have a one to two minute audition piece ready to present. Sign ups will be taking place during the auditions. All performers in the show must be Homestead seniors.

MR. SPARTAN CONTESTANTS

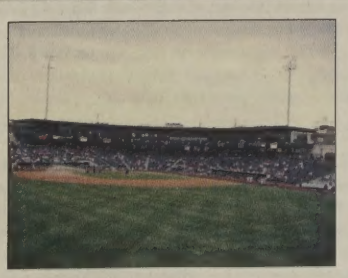
Applications for senior guys wanting to compete in Mr. Spartan, the school's first male beauty pageant, are due by the end of day on Wednesday, May 6. The forms can be turned in during lunch or to Mrs. Moss in room 531.

SPRING MUSICAL

Featuring music and lyrics by Cole Porter, Homestead's spring musical, "Anything Goes," opens tonight, Friday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. Additional show times are Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $5 for students and $7 for adults.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Sterling Sentinel Awards Ceremony, Referendum Renewal
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Tax for Two, Letters to the Editor, Financial Waste in Pakistan
PAGE 4A, Life: NHS Coffee House, Fine Arts Week and Gallery
PAGE 5A, Life: Earthfest, Infamous Senioritis, A Butchering of the Language
PAGE 6A, Sports: Boys' Golf, Boys' Track, Fort Wayne Travel Teams
PAGE 7A, Sports: Girls' Track, Full Court Press, Aboite Girls' Softball
PAGE 8A, Feature: Part of the Pastime



PART OF THE **pastime**

FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT JOBS AT AND STUDENT OPINIONS ON THE NEW HOME OF THE FORT WAYNE TINCAPS BASEBALL TEAM, SEE PAGE 8A

SMITH RESIGNS

Superintendent to leave district for Hamilton Southeastern Schools

"This happened to be one of those opportunities that came up that was just a good fit."

BRIAN SMITH

BY PATRICK SVITEK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After overseeing Southwest Allen County Schools for more than a decade, Superintendent Brian Smith is resigning from his position. On Monday night, the Hamilton Southeastern School Board voted to name Smith the new superintendent of its district, a role held by six other officials since February 2008.

Hamilton Southeastern Schools Interim Superintendent Steve Tegarden cited the similarities between both districts as a deciding factor in Smith's appointment.

"We were very impressed with the success the system had had under Dr. Smith," Tegarden said. "In the end of the day, it just seemed like it might be a real good match."

The decision was met with less grace by SACS students and parents who supported Smith's referendum renewal campaign one week earlier. Anna Smith (12), a student who volunteered alongside the superintendent at

Smith, continued on 2a

School District	Enrollment	Free Lunch Count	Graduation Rate	Average Percent Passing ISTEP
Hamilton Southeastern	17,140	7%	87.1%	89.5%
Southwest Allen County	6,811	8%	94.7%	84%

370 trees planted at Arbor Day park

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

It was the Friday morning announcement that students could not stop talking about: Michael Breuning's (12) car cam voyage from Homestead's senior lot to the site of the Little River Wetlands Project. Nevertheless, although his journey was quite humorous, his destination was ultimately more important. Volunteering for Senator Lugar's office, the audacious senior set out to plant 500 river birch trees for his annual Arbor Day project.

"Last year I did a project through Senator Lugar's office because I needed volunteer hours for government, and they suggested that I do an Arbor Day project," Breuning said. "So I ran with it, and I ended up planting 100 trees last year. This year, I'm still volunteering at Lugar's office, and I decided to plant 500 trees. They were donated to us by a place called Vallonia Nursery, which is an hour and a half south of Indianapolis in Vallonia, Indiana. They gave us 500 river birch trees, and they were totally cool about it. The only thing we had to do was pay shipping on them, and so it was like $95, but I talked to an organization called Hoosier Re-Leaf, and they reimbursed me on the shipping."

"I've always been around nature. Sometimes it just makes me sick seeing industrial waste."

MICHAEL BREUNING (12)
Event Organizer

Arbor Day, continued on 2a

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Senior Michael Breuning takes a break from planting to advise a fellow volunteer during the Arbor Day event.

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

Nate Ferrise (12) attempts to frame Nick Jewson (12) of having an affair with Megan Meyer's character in the musical "Anything Goes."

homestead high sea notes

Dramatists to perform nautical comedy this weekend

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

Spring is full swing. As thermometer steadily climbs, one telltale sign that the summer months are not far off is the bustling activity in the fine arts wing, including last minute preparations for those involved with the spring musical. With opening night last Friday, the culmination of the cast and crew's laborious rehearsing has drawn near.

Homestead's annual spring musical this year is "Anything Goes." Directed by new drama and English teacher Victoria Malooley, the musical opened Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Additional performances took place Saturday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m.

There was only one weekend the cast per-

Anything Goes, continued on 2a

Counselor lands Lily Grant

Aided by past winners, Rice earns money to visit eastern art schools

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

Every year, the Lily Grant is awarded to educators throughout the country for both educational and personal purposes. For consideration, the educator must to write a proposal for how she would use the grant, specifying how it will benefit both her students and herself. Successfully meeting all of these criteria, the most recent recipient at Homestead is guidance counselor Diane Rice.

"The focus [of the proposal] is teacher renewal, with a tie back to your curriculum," Rice said. "It doesn't have to be that well-integrated tie that regular professional development does. You basically submit a proposal based on their criteria . . . and it's about whatever you want to do—what your heart's passion is."

Having filled out such a detailed proposal, Rice already knows exactly how she will spend the grant.

"You specify very specifically what you're going to do with the grant when you make the proposal," Rice said. "My proposal was to, basically, travel down the East Coast of the United States and look at different types of art schools. It's a wide variety, from culinary arts to performing arts to visual arts to multimedia arts."

When Rice wrote her proposal, she received many pointers from Steve Clough, an English teacher who won the Grant himself in 2003, and to whom Rice is very grateful for his advice.

"I don't know how others feel who have gotten the grant before me, but I would not have gotten it without him," Rice said. "It's like when you're writing a paper for a teacher, and they give you feedback after the draft; that happened probably 25 times. He kept saying, 'Pull more from here, I want to hear your heart in this part.' It got, towards the end, to where he was correcting it maybe every day, maybe some days more than once a day. He knows how to help you write from your heart, and that's what they really want to see."

According to Rice, over 125 educators each year are funded by this grant. There have also been several previous winners at Homestead, and Rice believes that many of them were also helped by Clough.

"I can't say for sure, but I know that he's helped many past winners," Rice said. "He's just got a number on it."

Reflecting on her essay, Rice thinks that her trip to East Coast will be very helpful for her in allowing her to gain a new outlook—aca-

Counselor Grant, continued on 2a

"[Clough] knows how to help you write from your heart and that's what they want to see."

DIANE RICE
Counselor

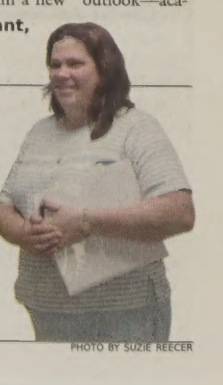


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Sterling Sentinel gifts awarded

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

Over the past 24 years, the News Sentinel has held its annual Sterling Sentinel awards ceremony, through which the local newspaper distributes scholarships to local seniors who excel in certain academic subject areas.

The scholarships and respective Homestead applicants were as follows: Margaret Distler for journalism, Chris Ray for business, Kara Hackett for English/ Literature, Maria Walker for Foreign Language, Kimi Holmes for Music-Voice, Alycia Matz for Art, Nikki Wilson for Athletics, Jessica Boyer for Industrial-Vocational, David Ramsey for Mathematics, Sean Banta for Music-Instrumental, Jenna Clark for Drama, Brett Ballard for Science, Elizabeth Lippie for Social Studies and Yogesh Jonna for Speech. A $3000 scholarship was awarded to the journalism winner, and $1500 scholarships were awarded to the winners of the remaining categories.

The winners of the scholarships were announced at the award ceremony on Wednesday, April 22. Among the winners was Ramsey for his excellence in mathematics. According to Ramsey, he was able to win in the category of mathematics through both his stellar test scores and his willingness to share his knowledge with others.

"I am lucky to have had the opportunity to do all of the things I needed to do to qualify," Ramsey said. "I am glad I won the scholarship, but it's secondary compared to everything else".

In order to be nominated for a Sterling Sentinel scholarship, a student must possess an extraordinary amount of interest and aptitude in a particular subject area. For example, Ballard has completed seven science classes at Homestead, among other science-related endeavors.

"I think a deciding factor for me to be the Homestead science nominee was my participation in the cancer research program at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY, where I worked under a researcher as my mentor for seven weeks during the summer after my junior year. My mentor, Dr. Slocum, and I worked with cancer cells making experiments that real researchers in the field perform," Ballard said.

Walker, the Homestead nominee for the Foreign Language scholarship, also has an impressive resume of accomplishments.

"I was probably nominated for the foreign language scholarship because I spent last summer studying French in France, and I plan on continuing to study French and Spanish in college and also picking up another language. I do not know what I want to do after college, but it will definitely involve studying foreign languages," Walker said.

Though Ramsey was the only Spartan to receive a scholarship, it is considered an honor to have been nominated in any category, and any of the other Homestead nominees justifiably could have won.

"I will use [the scholarship money] to pay for my education at the University of Chicago," Ramsey said. As the economy remains fairly weak and a college education becomes increasingly more important, it is good to know that local high school students who excel in their respective subject areas are being rewarded for all their hard work.

Brett Ballard (12) waits with the other science nominees.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

ARBOR DAY
CONTINUED FROM 1A

Partnering with Laurie Keys, executive director of both the Aboite New Trails and the Little River Wetlands Project, Breuning successfully organized the event with Allie Quintano (11) who also volunteers at Senator Richard Lugar's Northeast Indiana Community Service Center. Once everything was in order, Breuning began advertising with posters around the school and presentations to the Eco Club.

"Michael presented a slide show to Eco Club about Arbor Day and got us all involved with the project," Bri Bardonner (10), Eco Club member, said. "It made the whole club excited to help out."

Along with the Eco Club participants, the number of volunteers who showed up to help plant trees totaled to what Breuning assumed was nearly 100. However, with so many people present, problems began to arise.

"I was a little disappointed that we only got to 370 trees planted because we had a lot of people show up who didn't know what to do," Breuning said. "I had about 15 crew leaders that I explained what to do and how to direct people, but people showed up and they started planting trees wherever they wanted to."

Yet, despite minor difficulties, Breuning's passion for the project made it an enjoyable experience nonetheless.

"I've always been around trees," Breuning said. "I've always been around nature. I'm an Eagle Scout, so I've always enjoyed camping, nature, ecology. Sometimes it just makes me sick seeing industrial waste."

Growing up with woods behind his house, he hopes to share the beauty of the environment he loves by continuing to plant trees along the Towpath, a portion of Huntington Valley which will become a new stretch of the Aboite Trails this fall.

"I'm going to go to IPFW for my first year of college, so I'm going to stick around and do even a bigger project next year to get more people involved," Breuning said. "I hope to line the entire trial. This entire Towpath is about 4,000 feet—I did 1,200 feet. My plan is for next year to complete the rest of that trail. Also, we are going to see where else we can esthetically place trees because I think it's cool when architecture can involve nature."

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Left: Trent Cooper (11) digs a hole to use for future planting. Cooper was one of an estimated 100 students who attended the Arbor Day event hosted by Michael Breuning. Above: Michael Breuning assists a student while examining the roots of a tree plant. The mass amounts of plants used during the day were courtesy of an Indianapolis nursery.

ANYTHING GOES
CONTINUED FROM 1A

formed this year — a change from two weekends of performing in previous years.

The story line of the musical takes place on a ship with a rather eccentric cast, including an "evangelist night club singer," a public enemy, a stock broker, a debutante and an English gentleman. According to the plot line, the characters continually fall in and out of love, making for a series of humorous scenarios in which everyone eventually discovers their own individual version of happiness.

"It's very upbeat, funny and has a lot of great roles and great songs," Malooley said.

The cast had about 40 members, ranging from the powerhouse vocalists playing the leads to the song and dance numbers performed by the chorus. Additionally, there were 12 members of the stage crew, who play a vital role in any musical. These members were responsible for running all behind the scenes aspects of the play.

The orchestra was also involved in this year's production of "Anything Goes," providing full musical accompaniment to the play during the dress rehearsals of the week prior to and weekend of the performances.

While "Anything Goes" has many leads, some notable students who played starring roles are Megan Meyer (12), Carson Royer (11), Kimi Holmes (12), Nate Ferrise (12), Hali Bickford (12) and Nick Jewson (12).

Since auditions were held at the end of February, the cast had been rehearsing five days a week. Rehearsals on Mondays through Wednesdays were devoted to blocking and characterization with Malooley, whereas Thursdays and Fridays were devoted to practicing choreography with their choreographer.

The week prior to opening night, the cast, crew, and orchestra had been running full dress rehearsals to make sure the lights, sounds, props, sets and costumes were all fully prepared for opening night.

After such rigorous preparations, those involved in the production showed signs of confidence.

"I think it was spectacular!" Malooley said.

Sharing her enthusiasm, Ferrise believed that this year—his third year involved in a spring musical—was a success. In "Anything Goes," Ferrise played "Moon Face Martin," the comical gangster and public enemy #13 who tries to help his friend "Billy" get the girl of his dreams.

"I enjoy theater, and I want to go into acting in college," Ferrise said. "It's a passion. The best part of my part this year was I got to carry a 'Tommy Gun,' which is an old gangster machine gun."

Like Ferrise, Holmes has done the spring musical since her sophomore year. In "Anything Goes," she played Hope Harcourt, the love interest of Billy Crocker.

"My favorite part of doing the musical was working with the cast," Holmes said. "Rehearsals were fun because we're all friends, so we just joked around a lot. Even though it's my last [musical showing at Homestead], I do community theater so it's not going to be my last performance."

Tickets to the show were available during lunch modules all week for $5.00. They were also be sold at the door for $5.00 for students and children under 12, and $7.00 for adults.

After the curtain going up on Friday night, the cast and crew were excited to present the product of nearly two months of rehearsal.

Referendum passed by SACS district taxpayers

Schools will maintain small class sizes, options

BY PRIYA PARIKH
WRITER

On Tuesday April 21, Allen County voters passed the 2009 referendum renewal, continuing financial aide to our school system. Passing four votes to one, the referendum now guarantees a maintained class size while mitigating discrepancies and offering a variety of classes.

The topic of the renewal has been discussed in classrooms and schools all around the district. Many teachers are adamant to share their opinions on the referendum.

"I voted for the referendum because it absolutely essential," Steve Clough, English teacher, said. "We know that with the state funding formula that is creating the trouble that we have here that to go forward without it would just be disaster. It's going to be tough enough anyway; class sizes are getting larger and the minimum numbers of kids per class is going up. We're still having lay offs of teachers district wide and that's with the referendum going through. So to not vote for it and see it fail simply wasn't an option."

Along with the teachers who supported the referendum, many students who voted have strong opinions concerning the topic at hand as well.

"I believe that the education system is important," Justin Carter (12), who voted in support for the referendum, said. "Our school system doesn't receive enough money from the government to support our high standards of education. Thus, it is up to the residents of the Southwest Allen school district to help provide incentives for the school system to be able to use to better the education of students."

Although the referendum has been passed and the majority of individuals are satisfied with the results, there is still much work that must be done to ensure full support of our educational system. The state funding formula still has major flaws, and school officials are now recommending that voters consult their local representatives about changing it. School systems have already notified legislators' that issues like equity and accountability must be taken into consideration for the funding formula, but voters must now take it upon themselves to reinforce these issues in the legislator's minds and avoid having to pass another referendum in the future.

"I would love to see something come out from our teachers union and the administration about what we can do and what everybody in the community can do to get behind the pressure on the state legislator and change this thing," Clough said. "It's one of the most idiotic things I've ever seen in politics."

"We are participated in a letter writing campaign a couple days ago to discuss the state equity issue, and what is going to go on for the next 10 years," SACS Superintendent, Dr. Brian Smith, said. "We discussed what action is appropriate with the state funding issue. At this point, if the state equity issue is not been addressed, we're going to be asking parents to get in touch with our legislators to question why funding equity has not been addressed."

The push for more support of school funding has been mainly due to the effect of the current economic hardships. Students, parents, teachers, and faculty now want to see effective results from their increased property taxes.

"The economy was a concern for all of us," Smith said. "These are hard economic times and we have to make people work harder. The thing that separates Southwest Allen Country from other districts is the fact that parents' support in our education is so high. They see that we need to keep what we have in our schools. I thought the economy would create some issues because of the people that are out of work or have fixed incomes, and yet, I think the vibrancy of the Aboite township is directly associated with the vibrancy in the schools. They're inexplicably entwined with each other, and they support one another. Therefore, we need to continue to keep both of them growing."

SMITH
CONTINUED FROM 1A

the polls, believes the move is in poor taste given the timing.

"The three of us who volunteered with him feel slightly betrayed," she said. "The sudden transfer makes one wonder when it became a matter of career advancement and stopped being about the students."

In Smith's absence, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Carey will act as interim superintendent while the school board searches for candidates. Smith explained that state funding expertise is "something they will consider" when selecting applicants. He also plans to continue his crusade against discrepancies in Indiana's school finance formula, a conflict that stretches beyond the boundaries of Southwest Allen County.

> "As I told them, I just couldn't pick up and leave, and they understood that."
>
> **BRIAN SMITH**
> SACS Superintendent

"I am determined that we are going to pursue funding equity," Smith said. "That's going to benefit everybody like Hamilton Southeastern and Southwest Allen."

On the morning prior to the appointment, Smith notified his district administration before travelling to the school corporation north of Indianapolis, where he completed paper work and met with various officials. According to Smith, his colleagues reacted with "shock."

"I'm not sure I was even planning to leave if you asked me several months ago," Smith said. "It just happened."

Although Smith had knowledge of his consideration as early as February, he placed any offers in abeyance while SACS promoted the refresh of its referendum.

"I just told them I had several commitments throughout the school year and that I really couldn't make any commitment to them until near the end of this school year," Smith said. "As I told them, I just couldn't pick up and leave, and they understood that."

While the announcement left some students in awe, others welcomed the change of administration. Smith's leave, according to referendum volunteer Michael Yang (12), should be accepted and overlooked as the district progresses.

"Maybe it's time for him to have a change," Yang said. "I am kind of annoyed that he left after the referendum and all of the work that went into that, but he did do good things for the district."

Smith will assume his new post on July 1, 17 days after Homestead seniors' graduation ceremony at the Memorial Coliseum.

COUNSELOR GRANT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

demically and personally.

"I'm a very practical person, my favorite subject in school was math, but what I'm looking at is a broader perspective," Rice said.

Preparing herself to counsel students with interests different from her own, Rice will soon be able to give much more insight on how creative arts schools function and which are most beneficial. Traveling with a planned purpose, she also has a very specific agenda to which she must adhere when visiting the destinations on her trip.

"I'll visit a school, and I'll talk to the admissions people. I'll talk to the placement people, which are people you work with on your way out of the university, and then I will experience that art venue," Rice said. "At Johnson and Wales, I'll stay at the Johnson and Wales Inn, which is right by the students and go back in the kitchen with the chef. In that particular case, it's a working classroom. I hope that every class that I get to observe is hands on. One lady said to me, 'You don't want to go and observe a lecture.' That was a true statement. When I see a class in each of these places, I want to see the students 'doing.' In that respect, I hope that it helps me to be more enlightened as I work with students who are choosing the creative arts field as their future."

WRITE HERE, WRITE NOW.
THESPARTANA@GMAIL.COM

OPINION

Historic re-enactment with modern day relevance cause for protest, 3a

page 3a
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Tax Day Tea Parties

Kerry-Lugar Bill

Letter to the Editor

Monday, May 4, 2009

tax FOR two

National protests against high taxes directed toward Obama

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

Across the United States within the past month, groups of citizens have gathered in public to express their dissatisfaction with government taxation and spending. The protests draw their theme from the Boston Tea Party of 1773, and despite this clever revival of the iconic revolution, recent events (aptly referred to as "tea parties") are anything but the organized and well-intentioned uprisings of their predecessors.

The demonstrators have protested what they believe to be exorbitant tax rates and wasteful, excessive government spending. The laughable absurdity of this circumstance is that the Obama administration has yet to impose a single tax since the inauguration. When the administration inevitably does, the taxes will be accompanied by income tax cuts to 95% of Americans, including additional tax decreases for small businesses, tuition payers, and property owners.

The only citizens eligible for a tax increase are those whose annual incomes exceed $250,000 -- a demographic encompassing only the top 1.5% of the national population. Let us not forget that this taxation rate remains ten points lower than the far more exorbitant taxation policies of Reagan and Nixon. Perhaps the most amusingly ironic facet of the tea parties is the fact little to no citizens who stand to experience higher taxation were present. The crowds have been filled with low and middle-income taxpayers who are ironically poised to gain the most from Obama's tax policies, and time and time again, those who oppose these beneficial policies are those who have remained stalwartly ignorant and been repeatedly misinformed by the GOP.

The tea parties were painted as a bipartisan effort, although their execution was anything but. The Huffington Post captured photographs of numerous picketed depictions offensively likening Barack Obama to Adolf Hitler as well as signs protesting abortion. The tea parties were clearly in no manner a bipartisan effort -- they were merely a conglomeration of the conservative agenda and unhappy voters spurned by the previous election. These protests were disorderly and juvenile, and therefore impossible to respect in the least.

The participants of the tea parties entered these circumstances with the wrong attitude. The United States as a whole needs to be patient -- Barack Obama is not a magician and a wave of his presidential wand will not make the recession disappear overnight. Everyone will have to make sacrifices in order to restore America, and while it certainly is not fair, complaining will change the state of the times no more than it will benefit the nation. While the stimulus plan is undoubtedly expensive, the national deficit has been an astronomical sum for quite some time, and the regenerated economy will pay for itself.

American citizens are not obligated to like Barack Obama's policies, but in order for progress to be made, citizens will have to get in line behind the president. There is no use in protesting any longer; the political wheel has already been set in motion, and only faith and a fervent support of American livelihood, if not the president, can keep us from spiraling deeper into the black hole of recession.

LETTER TO THE editor

Collin Brophy (12) comments on Opinion Section

Throughout the year, whether out of boredom or curiosity, I enjoyed tracing over the lines of the school paper. If only to take away, from the minutes I spend combing the articles for a good read, a fuller understanding of the makeshift society law mandates I submit myself to 5 days a week, 180 days a year. The articles by Opinion editor Ashley Heath and my peers' reactions to her statements have been interesting. Ask anyone and they'll say that I'm a die hard liberal. Here's the catch: I'm indifferent to both extremes in the political spectrum. My opinions mean little to me because I know they won't serve a higher purpose. My views shift with whomever I'm conversing with simply to be argumentative. Blue, Red, Green, life is too complicated to be split into colors that stand for a set of beliefs. Many voice their anger over the publication of extremely conservative articles by our friend Ashley. People shout their opinion as if the louder they shout, the more correct their view is. What everyone fails to realize is that it's all the same. No matter how defined an individual becomes, anything he produces to be considered of merit, is entirely pointless to a nation's growth. Darwin had a point when he published his theory of natural selection. Those who are unwilling to adapt to their environment die, and the stronger, more versatile live. Therefore, liberals and neoconservatives are walking corpses. Our elections only serve to satisfy the burning desire of half of the ignorati, to hold some association with a color (of all things), over the other half. Frankly, what shocks me is how little the passing of office from one party to another actually changes things. Barack Obama ran under a banner of change, yet days after the election, we sent a missile into Pakistan. Don't get me wrong, I love the guy, but what people fail to realize is that change and progress are events that occur with the passage of time, not office. It's disheartening that the ideals that millions hold only fuel a burning resentment for one color or another. Many believe that if they are similar to the individual "charged" with running the country, their personal beliefs are more valued than their neighbors'. It isn't the color of the man in office that moves our nation along its rocky path; it's that someone fills the role. Please, stop arguing for something you can't change. To voice your opinion is one thing. To do it in a public forum is another. To print articles that will incite anger in those that you walk the halls with daily has been reason for me to use the last issue of the paper as kindling. A publication I once read to distract myself from how crappy things can seem sometimes has fallen so far as to become something I desire to avoid when dropped on a desk in seventh period. Congratulations, my friends, you now contribute another roll of toilet paper for society to wipe itself with.

Sincerely, Collin Brophy

Trusted senator will waste taxpayers' dollars to construct Pakistani schools

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

In this new year, we have elected new leaders; ironically, they are leading us down a very familiar path. A new president and a couple of old senators are opening up the United States next financial black hole: Pakistan. President Obama's policies seem to show that the couple years spent closing the war in Iraq will be more expensive than fighting it. While throwing money into this all too familiar situation, the government has found the need to not only fund national security overseas but also to "strengthen [foreign] democracies."

Richard Lugar has been an Indiana senator for 32 years, and has more years of experience than any other Republican currently in office. Apparently, decades of experience led Senator Lugar to join hands with Democratic Senator John Kerry by request of President Obama to strengthen the democracy of Pakistan.

Both the success in Germany and failure with Afghanistan in the 1970s have proven that investing in countries that the military has used as a battleground is effective. This does not mean, however, that we should spend billions of dollars to build schools in a country that is in the midst of fighting a resurgent Taliban. For the past two years, the Taliban has provided overwhelming resistance to the Pakistani government in the great valley. The government has neither the resources nor the means to fight the Taliban; however, both senators have led a bill requested by president Obama to attack the issue in different path.

Instead of enabling the Pakistani government with funds for arms and national defense, the Kerry-Lugar bill proposes to strengthen their democracy. The bill for $1.5B annually for five years is for building schools, roads, hospitals and government offices. Moreover, the funding goes to a government led by Asif Ali Zardari. Zardari has spent his time in office removing his political opponents and pressuring their Supreme Court to restrict popular opponents from running for office, instead of helping his country progress. On the other hand, the executive branch has asked for an additional $83B for the war in Iraq. They claim that it will be enough for the rest of the 2009 fiscal year; in reality, it will only be enough for a few months until the government decides again to print and borrow money.

> "...there is no end in sight to this cyclic process of creating and spending money."
>
> **YOGESH JONNA**
> Associate Opinion Editor

It seems that under this newly reformed government there is no end in sight to this cyclic process of creating and spending money. Despite personal beliefs on the wars in the Middle East, one thing is certain. The solution will never be to throw money at the problem. The government looks at its power to create money not as a responsibility towards the people but rather as a bank whose only limit is the number of trees on the Earth.

James Frazier, P.E. teacher, opposes waiver policy

As a former student athlete and a coach of many high school sports in recent years, I realize the time and effort that goes into conditioning for sports at the high school level. The amount of work and fitness activities done by our athletes is without doubt something that is to be commended and appreciated. However, most sports require sport specific fitness and skills that prepare them only for that sport. By requiring all students to take two semesters of P.E. during their high school years, we are able to introduce lifetime sports activities that some might not otherwise ever learn about or have the opportunity to play. We also have a large focus on fitness in P.E. and try our best to incorporate many different types of workouts and cardiovascular fitness activities so that students get the chance to see if there might be other activities or exercises they enjoy. They then could continue to do these on their own outside of class and hopefully throughout their life.

This is the main reason giving waivers for P.E. would be something that shouldn't be considered by Homestead High School. I believe that allowing student athletes to be excused from the P.E. requirements would not allow them to experience a well-rounded wellness program that teaches both lifelong physical activities and lifelong fitness activities.

The other issue I have with the P.E. waiver is I feel it opens up a huge can of worms as to who is eligible and what sports are eligible for these waivers. Would it be to all student athletes at every level from varsity to freshmen level teams? Would it include club sports? Would it include the hard working band, dance and show choir teams that are co-curricular activities and already receiving school credit for their participation? Also, what do we do with the student who makes the team, receives the waiver and is then injured, is kicked off because of bad behavior or fails off of the team because of poor grades? Will they be forced to then take P.E. class? There are many other scenarios that complicate this issue. But ultimately it all goes back to the fact that they would be missing out on opportunities to learn new sports and fitness activities that can help them stay in shape for life.

Making a blanket statement saying waivers should be granted is something I believe needs to be reconsidered by the Spartana Ed Board. I also believe the benefits of physical education are clear and something even the finest athletes can benefit from.

Thank you. James Frazier, Homestead P.E. Teacher (this letter was also supported by Dick Shenfeld, HHS P.E. Dept Head)

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
CHARLES WALTER

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
JOE HANAUER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

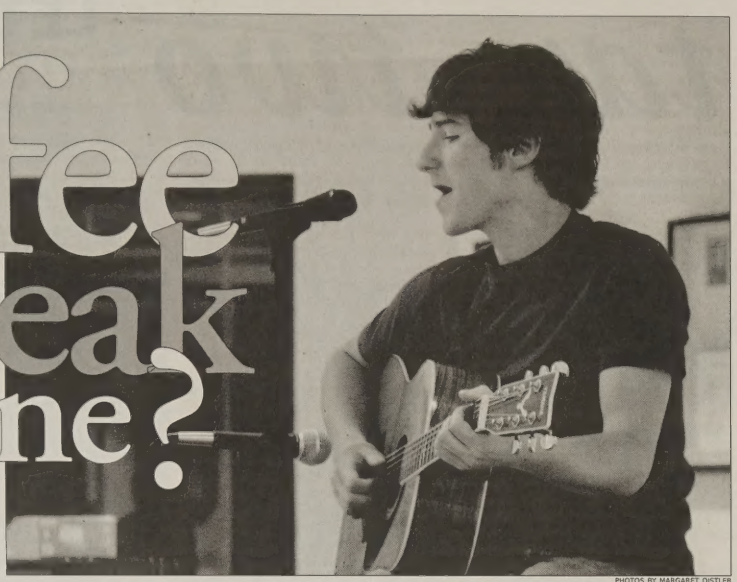
fine arts week creates appreciation for student talent, creativity, 5a

page 4a
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NHS Coffee House | Orchestra | Jazz Band

Monday, May 4, 2009

coffee break anyone?



PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Annual National Honor Society Coffee House concludes week of fine arts

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Good music, art, food, friends and the aroma of coffee beans in the air make the perfect ingredients for an amusing and relaxed atmosphere like the one that could be experienced at the National Honor Society (NHS) Coffee House on Friday, April 24. However, there were many preparations to be made before the event could successfully take place.

"We had to get all of the events lined up and we had to get the word out and make sure we had all of the equipment and food needed. We had a few difficulties, but overall, it went pretty smoothly," Tarun Jain (12), Coffee House Coordinator, said.

With the stage set up, coffee brewing, desserts displayed, streamers hung, balloons blown and the fine arts gallery open and ready for viewing, the NHS Coffee House commenced. As students arrived an amiable atmosphere was created.

"I am a member of the NHS executive committee so I went to support the NHS and see some of the talent we have at Homestead. My favorite part was the food because it was all arranged by Cassie Kuczmanski (12) and she is an amazing cook," Alison Podlaski (12) said. "Everything was really well put together and I thought they did a really good job overall."

In the spirit of promoting creativity, the tables were adorned with table cloths made of construction paper so that the audience would be able to draw while listening to the musical acts. With differing performers lined up, the NHS Coffee House gave students plenty of reasons to attend.

> "We just wanted to make sure that everyone has a good time and that people showed up and enjoyed themselves. My favorite part was listening to all the different bands perform and listening to what each different person brought to the table."
>
> **TARUN JAIN (12)**
> NHS Coffee House Coordinator

"I went because I like the music and I wanted to see the fine arts gallery to support the Homestead's fine arts program. My favorite part was listening to the music, especially Tareq (Abdel-Khaleq) (12)," Peter Ali (10) said.

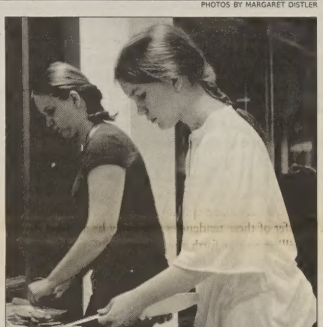
The NHS Coffee House also provided the performing students with an opportunity to showcase their talents. Unlike other events, in which there is much more pressure and stress put on the performers, the NHS Coffee House provided an informal and casual environment. Gabrielle Tatara (10) shared her experience as a performer for the NHS Coffee House.

"I get nervous before any gig, but I have played at a lot of places now and I've played at a lot of real coffee houses, so I wasn't really nervous because I know that the whole focus isn't exactly on you. I absolutely love playing but I loved hearing the other musicians, too," Tatara said.

Despite setbacks that occurred when some of the scheduled performers canceled their appearances, the planners of the NHS Coffee House managed to achieve their goals and pull off a jovial and pleasant event for students to partake in.

"We just wanted to make sure that everyone had a good time and that people showed up and enjoyed themselves. My favorite part was listening to all the bands perform and listening to what each different person brought to the table," Jain said.

After all the acts were performed, all the coffee was sold, the audience was gone, the decorations were removed and the equipment was put away, the National Honor Society had the satisfaction of knowing they provided the student body with a care-free and entertaining event.



NHS member Cassie Kuczmanski (12) unwraps the plates of desserts with the help of NHS Junior Treasurer Tori Rowe (12). Kuczmanski was responsible for assigning other members to bake certain goods and for arranging them in a presentable manner to the customers on Friday night. Out of all the desserts offered, cookies were the most purchased item of the evening.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

Part of Earthfest proceeds to be donated to environment preservation efforts, research

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
WRITER

Some say music makes the world go round, but it also may make the world go green. On Thursday, April 30, students gathered around the courtyard to listen to local bands perform. Not only is Earthfest a popular event to which many students go, but it also serves a good purpose.

In fact, Earthfest raised money to help preserve the environment and reduce carbon emissions. In doing so, some of the money will be donated to a company that does research on carbon offsets, investing in ways to offset carbon emissions in the atmosphere. For example, planting trees can counteract carbon dioxide. Overall, the school hopes to offset at least 10 tons of carbon.

> "I think the one thing that make Earthfest something really cool is the fact that so many different people connect through music. It just shows us the power that music actually has."
>
> **SAMMY SCARINGELLI (11)**
> Earthfest Performer

While students listened to the music of local bands, other school organizations wanted to help out at Earthfest by selling snacks and beverages. Along with the $10 admission fee and t-shirt, students were given the opportunity to buy coffee sold by the Ecoclub, as well as a wide selection of pastries, baked goods and lemonade sold by the Hospitality club. In addition, STAND sold bracelets and allowed students to rent lawn chairs for the duration of the event.

Gathering in the front atrium, attending students enjoyed the music of the 13 bands that were featured. However, before each band was allowed to play, they had to audition. Student government member and Earthfest coordinator Quinn Brenneke (11) judged the tryouts.

"I loved listening to the tryout CDs," Brenneke said. "It was great hearing all of the talent that our school has."

The auditioning bands played a variety of music, including rock, jazz, indie, punk rock, blues and acoustic. The selected performers then worked even harder to prepare for the event and invested time in fine-tuning their music.

"We practiced as often as we could after school to get ready," Keelan Rushing (10) said. "Luckily we had some pretty talented guys, so we all knew what we needed to do."

Song selection was no problem for the bands. While some chose songs that the audience might know and sing along to, others opted for more obscure songs that related to personal experiences.

"We performed a wide variety, including "The Best of Me" by the Starting Line and "From the Inside Out" by Seventh Day Slumber," Kurt Luithly (11) said. "We picked the first song because we all enjoy it, but we picked the second because we've played it so many times for church and we really enjoy it. We thought that since it was a band of five Christians we could do a little bit to show our religiousness." However, along with the many perks of personal expression, performing for an audience definitely had its obstacles. Because there are many problems that can interfere with a live performance, the bands had many worries when they were on stage. Timing between band members, remembering the lyrics and playing through mistakes were important obstacles to overcome. Yet, among all the possible difficulties, nerves were the most common dilemma for new performers.

"The most challenging thing about performing would have to be overcoming nerves," Ryan Lentine (12) said. "When I first started performing I would shake pretty badly, but over time you start to feel more comfortable on stage and you sort of transport into another world -- the crowd almost disappears."

Earthfest was a great way to raise money to help the environment. Many different kinds of people were able to come together with a common interest to serve a helpful and meaningful purpose.

"I think the one thing that makes Earthfest something really cool is the fact that so many different people connect through music," Sammy Scaringelli (11) said. "It just shows us the power that music actually has."

Tips on avoiding linguistic pandemic of epic proportion

BY BRAD LUFKIN
ASSOC. EDITOR

In the course of my 18 years on this planet, a majority of which I have been able to speak and comprehend language, I have discovered something quite peculiar. I have found that, far too often, people seem to take pleasure from eagerly butchering the English language.

When I am having a conversation or happen to overhear one, I frequently find that there is a complete disregard for proper grammar, syntax or word choice. It's almost as if people enjoy sounding mundane in their diction and have no aspirations of improving themselves.

I understand that there are many situations in which you do not need to speak formally, but certain colloquialisms should be avoided entirely. Using "like" as a filler word is one of the worst literary offenses one can commit. Some may aspire sound like a '90s valley girl, but the majority of society finds this type of people unbearable.

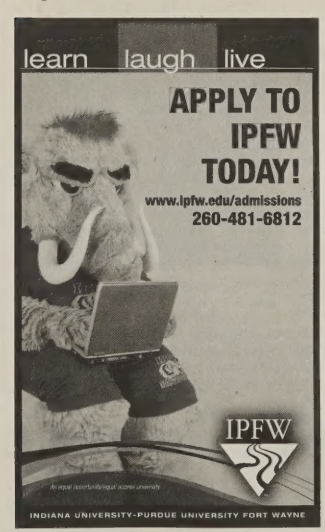
Today's undersized vocabularies need our attention. People simply and mindlessly describe things as "good" when a much more descriptive and vivid word would work much better. Use "fantastic," "wonderful," "stupendous" or "exceptional;" they're still fairly common words, but they have a certain intellectual quality that "good" does not. Occasionally using more advanced words allows you to at least put on a façade of intelligence. I tease because I care.

Today's word-of-the-day that you can use to expand your vocabulary is "schadenfreude" [shahd-n-froi-duh]. It is borrowed from German, but is English nonetheless. It's a noun that means enjoyment derived from the misfortunes of others. Used in a sentence: "People took schadenfreude in Bernie Madoff's situation." Try to work the word into your next conversation.

E-nun-ci-a-tion has also been lost somewhere in the evolution of English. I know people have acquired various accents determined by where they were born or have lived, but some people seem to be completely apathetic. Mumbling has become contagious. There's no use in speaking if no one can understand you.

I don't blame anyone in particular for this linguistic pandemic, but prominent public figures certainly haven't helped citizens gain a greater mastery of the English language. I'm not insinuating anything about his intelligence, (yes I am), but for the past eight years, President Bush hasn't exactly been a great example of syntax at its finest. When there are entire one-a-day calendars devoted to idiotic quotations from the man who is alledgedly the most powerful in the country, it doesn't say much about everyone who elected him.

Modern English, especially written English, is bursting with bad habits that spread by means of imitation. The transfer of these tendencies can easily be avoided if one is willing to put forth the necessary effort. If you are able to separate yourself from the two-bit crowd of word assassins, you will be able to express yourself more clearly and in concisely. The last thing we need is another George Bush.



Celebrating the arts

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER, SUZIE REECER

Fine Arts Week showcases students' creative talents, dedication over year

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

This past week, stepping into the community room may have resembled walking into a professional art gallery in a large city. The entire room was covered with pictures, baskets, bags and ceramics. As hard as it might be to realize it, every one of those pieces originated from the Homestead art rooms; all of the works were created by a Homestead student or faculty member.

"The art teachers [have] been collecting all year long for the show," Cindy Husar, Ceramics teacher, said.

Husar has been involved in ceramics for twenty years, which might explain why it is her favorite class to teach. Along with Husar, all of the art teachers at Homestead are deeply involved in the art gallery.

"Scheduling is done a year in advance because of how busy May is," Sarah Jones, art teacher, said.

Jones' favorite classes are Advanced 2-D Art and Art History.

"Art History [is] the one class [I have] helped to develop [at Homestead]," Jones said.

The teachers look forward to the art gallery, but that does not mean that there is not a lot of work involved.

"For some, the hardest part of the gallery is simply finding the time to get everything together," Lisa Ricker, art teacher, said.

Mitch Welbaum (11) displayed some ceramic pots that he created in the gallery.

"I feel really good about [showing my art work in the gallery] and I enjoy it," Welbaum said. "I miss ceramics because I couldn't fit it in my schedule this semester. I would definitely suggest others take some art classes, [particularly if] they are hands-on [types of classes]."

Stephanie Scribner (10) walked through the gallery on Friday during sixth period.

"The gallery and the works shown really impressed me," Scribner said. "They inspired me to want to be as good as that."

After having taught at Haverhill Elementary, Mike Schmid now teaches art at Homestead and continues to be impressed with the program.

"Homestead has a tradition of producing highly skilled artists, and that tradition looks like it is not in danger of changing anytime soon," Schmid said.

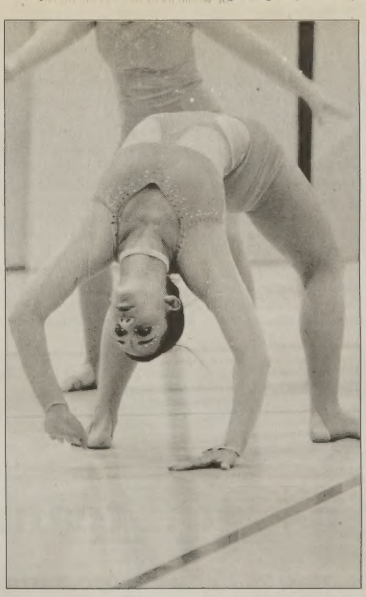
> "Homestead has a tradition of producing highly skilled artists, and that tradition looks like it is not in danger of changing anytime soon."
>
> **MIKE SCHMID**
> Art Teacher

The art gallery is not the only way Homestead displayed its fine arts talent this past week. The convocation held on Tuesday revealed the hard work done by various groups, including the orchestra and color guard. These groups do not often perform for an audience almost exclusively made up of their fellow students.

"It's like [you are] sharing with them what you know," Sarah Sims (10), orchestra member, said. "It's more relaxed and more fun to play for students."

For the color guard, there was a different kind of pressure performing in front of peers than the pressure of performing in front of a group of judges.

"We go out [to perform] knowing that half of the kids don't care," Emily Potts (11), color guard member, said. "You are being judged on the action instead of the technique."

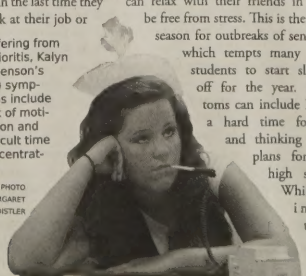


Top left: Orchestra member George Chen (11) plays the violin during the ensemble's performance of "Hoe Down" at the convocation. Top right: Alongside her fellow Elite show choir members, Valerie Parker (10) performs during the choir's two songs. Bottom right: Responsible for the transitions from one group to the next, Mr. Clough introduces jazz band. Bottom right: Bending backwards, varsity dancer Laura Aleman (11) performs the team's jazz routine during the assembly.

As graduation approaches, seniors catch contagious senioritis

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

As students come back from their spring break trips, some are having a hard time transitioning back in to the school mode. With warmer temperatures and the chance to relax, the vision of summer is filling the minds of many students. For seniors, summer may mean the last time they can relax with their friends in town, work at their job or be free from stress. This is the prime season for outbreaks of senioritis, which tempts many senior students to start slacking off for the year. Symptoms can include having a hard time focusing and thinking about plans for after high school. While the intentions that these students have could be pure, this condition could result in falling grades for those that do not control it. Senioritis is not the only thing that affects students during their year; many are busy filling out applications, studying for tests, and preparing for life after high school.



Suffering from senioritis, Kalyn Jorgenson's (12) symptoms include lack of motivation and difficult time concentrating.

PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

"I really have to push myself to work, because I want to slack off with school almost being done," James Valdez (12) said.

As freshman, many high school students plan ahead for their final year, and often, many plan to slack off their senior year. This makes it even harder for the students to focus, because they have been planning not to for their entire time in high school. For many, senior year is the one that is most often looked forward to and thought about. Although it receives all of this attention, many students are shocked when it hits them, because of all of the activities that occur.

"Senior year has been a rush in general. College applications or not, this year has really flown by," Valdez said.

During senior year, along with all of the academics that are paid attention to, students often still find time to relax with their friends.

"This year has been where I have grown closer to my friends," Nikki Wilson (12) said. "I love playing sports at Homestead; I will miss my basketball girls a lot and am excited for this softball season to start."

For some, senior year is a time to motivate them; others find it a time to focus on their athletics. While either choice provides the student with fulfillment, a balance of the two is often the best choice. With athletics, students are exposed to successful teams, and some students go on to play sports in college.

"The thing that has taken a lot of my time is e-mailing and talking to softball coaches because I wish to play softball in college," Wilson said.

Not only does senioritis affect the student body, but teachers also feel its effect. This is something that teachers expect with every senior class, and most are used to what it incorporates. Although many have not started to see it occur this early in the school year, they are not looking forward to when it starts to set in.

"Every year it seems that seniors start to slack off earlier in the school year. They just start to not give any effort to school, and it is a constant battle to make a lesson plan that is fun for the kids, while still academic," Daniel Jaeger, German teacher, said.

Even though seniors are excited to leave Homestead, for many it is a bittersweet ending. The dreams of all of the freedoms of college are exciting to look forward to, but all of the friends and experiences are hard to leave.

"I have had great teachers my whole Homestead experience, and will miss all of the great times that I had at Homestead," Wilson said.

SPORTS

overlooked girls' field events contribute to team's overall success, 7a

page 6a
issue 15 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Boys' Track

Aboite Softball League

Girls' Track

Monday, May 4, 2009

Athletes' seasons continue after end of school games

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

After the buzzer sounds to end the last game of the season, for some athletes another season is only beginning. It is not uncommon to see numerous athletes participating on traveling sports teams after the high school season has ended. These travel teams come in a variety of sports, including basketball, baseball and soccer.

Most of the travel basketball teams play in what is known as the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). One local AAU team is the Police Athletic League (PAL) Elite team. Jay Curry (11) and Andy Phillipe (11), who played for the boys' varsity basketball team this past winter, play for PAL Elite after the high school season ends. From this past weekend to the end of July, the team will play in nine tournaments in the Fort Wayne area and Kentucky. The team has already traveled to West Virginia as well.

"Being on the PAL team is a cool and fun experience," Curry said. "I like being able to travel around the country and see how many good players there are."

The most well-known travel baseball team in Fort Wayne is the Fort Wayne Cubs. Chuck Weaver (12), Mace Beech (12), Ryan Copley (12) and Patrick Veerkamp (12) all played for the Cubs over the past summer. Though the players only recently joined the Cubs, they previously played for the Aboite Braves. Many members of the varsity baseball team played for the Braves at some point in their youth, as the team was the prominent travel team in the Aboite area.

"We travel all over the place and are usually really successful," Copley said. "Playing with the same guys for awhile makes it easier to play."

Perhaps the most popular area travel sport is soccer. In Fort Wayne, there are a number of travel soccer teams, including Citadel FC, Fort Wayne Sport Club and the Fort Wayne Fever.

Many members of the girls' varsity soccer team participate on these teams. Alex Beuker (11), Sammy Scaringelli (11), Kate Bienz (12) and a number of others play for Fort Wayne Sport Club. All of the girls have been playing together on travel teams for over seven years, which has improved their high school team's chemistry.

"Knowing the girls for so long and being able to have a relationship on and off the field with them makes us like family," Kelsi Stephens (10) said. "It's really fun to play against girls on high school teams that I met through the travel team."

These teams are almost always playing in tournaments across the region during weekends and the summer. The teams are also usually very successful in these tournaments, usually placing in the top three. The Fort Wayne Sport Club teams begin playing during the winter, with the first tournament starting at The Dome.

While it is tough to have a high school season come to an end, some athletes look forward to the travel season because they get to be with a number of teammates from many different schools. To some, the travel season is when the real season commences. As the offseason hits, some athletes think to themselves, "Let the games begin."

new LEADERSHIP, *same* DETERMINATION

Departure of Shenfeld, loss of last year's seniors affect boys' track team

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

For the past 40 years, a local track meet without Dick Shenfeld roaming from event to event seemed impossible. Now, having Shenfeld on the sidelines is just a memory. Shenfeld, who had been the boys' varsity track coach for a total of 40 years, retired after last season, leaving the team to move on without him.

Jeff Livensparger took over for Shenfeld this year after having been an assistant coach in past years. Under a new coach, the way practices have been run has changed.

"This year practice is longer and we do more team stretching. I think Coach Shenfeld made practice more fun. He was laid back and liked to have fun with us. I definitely wish he would have retired after this year instead of last year," Colin Lyman (12) said.

Lyman, a senior captain this year, had been coached by Shenfeld for three years. Lyman runs the 400-meter and 800-meter events.

"Shenfeld had an infinite amount of running knowledge. He also knew the ins and outs of the track meets. He was to Homestead track what Joe Paterno is to Penn State football; Coach Shenfeld was the face of Homestead track," Lyman said.

Lyman and teammate Kyle Beutler (12) still stay in touch with Shenfeld. In the hallways, Beutler is asked by Shenfeld how his 200-meter event times are.

"I see Shenfeld around the hallways and he always asks how I'm running. When you are retired, it is still hard to not keep in touch with your old runners and the sport you love," Beutler said.

Joel Sluyter (12) participates in the high jump event for the team; he also noticed a change in practices with the introduction of a new coach.

"Practice has not changed for better or for worse; it is just different. Coach Livensparger is more focused on team unity so that is a change. We all miss Shenfeld, but the team is starting to warm up to Livensparger," Sluyter said.

Last year, the team went undefeated until they got to the regional competition, where it failed to qualify for the state competition. High jumper Joel Sluyter was the only member to qualify for the state finals individually last year.

"This year I hope to place at outdoor state and I would like to attempt to break the school record this year as well," Sluyter said.

This year's team not only lost Shenfeld, but also lost key seniors including Jacob Weide ('08), Ross Heckber ('08) and Michael Townsend ('08).

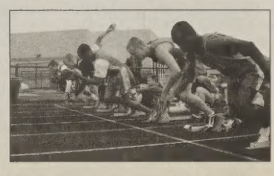
"Heckber was a key loss for us; everyone else was replaced, though. Our freshmen are still developing, but Clay Heckber (10) is throwing varsity for shot put," Lyman said.

This year's 4x800-meter relay team is aiming for the school record. The relay team consists of Lyman, Beutler, Evan Hanley (12) and Connor O'Shaughnessy (11).

"Last year our relay team ran (a time of) 8:05, and the school record is 8:02. We can definitely slim our time down three seconds and break the school record," Lyman said.

Next up for the team are the North Side Relays, which are the first big test of the season.

With Livensparger's new leadership and the memories of Shenfeld still fresh in the minds of the team, a possible combination of old-school and new-school techniques could be the recipe for a run at state.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES WALTER

Top: Scott Harrison (12) aims during windup for the shotput. Above: Runners push off the starting blocks during the 100 meter dash. Below: Colin Lyman (12) leads Connor O'Shaughnessy (11) during a race at a DeKalb meet.

PITCHER PERFECT

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

This past Monday, April 27, girls' varsity softball pitcher Jaqui Matheis (12) threw hers, and Homestead's first ever perfect game. In order for a game to be considered perfect, no opposing team members may make it onto base after hitting. The team won an 8-0 shutout against the East Noble Lady Knights. While Matheis threw seven strikeouts, she said, "It's neat to say I have pitched a perfect game, but it was definitely a team effort. Everyone was playing really well on Monday, so that made it easier for me to do well."

Jenkins, golf team aim for state

Jennings, acquisition of Wawasee transfer pushes Spartans into season

BY COLLIN MCCRACKEN
WRITER

They stand 6'7" and 180 pounds and 5'8" and 160 pounds, respectively. They are the one-two punch for the boys' varsity golf team. Even though they are almost opposites when it comes to size, these two golfers know what it takes to play on the links.

The proven Al Jennings (11) placed ninth at state last year as sophomore, but his taller counterpart has been getting the buzz lately. Michael Jenkins (12), a recent transfer from Wawasee High School, decided he would love to be a Spartan golfer at the start of his senior year. He made it to state last year as a Warrior, and now he is looking to repeat this feat as a Spartan.

"The atmosphere [at Homestead] is nicer, more golf-like. Orchard Ridge is one of the most prestigious country clubs in the entire state and to get to play on that [course] everyday is great. With the guys, I feel more at home and I'm enjoying it more," Jenkins said.

With a new team comes new responsibility, and Jenkins, being one of the few seniors on the team, believes that the team needs to come together and play as one if they want to try to win a state title.

"Making it to state is challenging every year and it takes hard work and dedication to the game to get that far," Jenkins said. "We have the talent to potentially win state, but it won't be handed to us. We have to work harder than ever before and set our goals high."

Now that Jenkins and Jennings are on the same team, they are no longer competitors as in years past. According to Jenkins, competing with Jennings every day at practice will be great. The confidence is beaming through the senior.

"We're not going to lose a match with our lineup and our on- two punch [of Jenkins and Jennings]. The season will be very exciting. Competing against Al for years has always been fun, but now that we are on the same team, it'll be hard to not still compete with him."

The differing playing styles of these two golfers is clearly evident on the course. While Jenkins is more of a risk taker, Jennings's mental state keeps him focused on being the best golfer he can be and making the right shots when needed. Along with Jenkins and Jennings, the golf team will rely on Grant Sawyers (12), Brock Rohlfing (12) and Jon Finley (10) to carry the team.

As a result of his talent, Jenkins has the opportunity to continuing playing golf at the next level in college.

"I want to play in college and I've been talking to the IPFW coach lately. A Wawasee player that I grew up with will be there too so that's what I would like to do. I like the game too much to give it up now," Jenkins said.

The golf team's acquisition of Jenkins has proved to be a boost in morale and an addition of a good teammate, but as the season is now underway, only time will tell if he can lead the team to a state title.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Michael Jenkins (12), a transfer student from Wawasee, follows through on a drive at Orchard Ridge. He is enjoying his new team atmosphere and home course.

beyond the track

Field events feel unrecognized despite point contribution to overall girl's team score

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

While events such as the 100-meter dash and the various relays draw attention to star runners, events not so well known, such as shot put and discus, win track meets. Of the 16 events that girl's track and field consists of, field events and hurdles largely go unnoticed.

"[Field events] are really important," Meghan Terrell (12), co-captain, said. "In order to win, we need all the points we can get, so the more points we get from our field events then the more meets we can win."

Much will be expected of the returning field competitors as the team begins their outdoor season. The long jump duo of Kelli Beutler (11) and Elena Schmidt (11), both of whom failed to make it past sectionals last year, will be relied upon to pick up much needed field points. This year, Beutler will continue to long jump while Schmidt will high jump.

"They will be a big part of the success we have in our field events," Coach Amy Barnes said. "Not only will they score points, but they are great leaders in helping the new girls learn the events and also encouraging them."

Of the nine events that the track team qualified for regionals, just one was a field event. Erin Quinn ('08) was the team's pole-vaulter. After watching Quinn advance in a very tough field event, the new pole-vaulters are looking to try to match Quinn's success.

"[Quinn] did really well last year," Chloe Smith (11), a pole-vaulter, said. "I don't know if I will be able to match her success, but I'm improving every time."

Much of the team's success will be placed on Whitney Neal (10), the team's discus thrower. Neal, who competed last year on the varsity team, expects to have a stronger year and improve on last season's success.

"I think I feel more pressure to do well [this year] because there is only one other girl throwing for us this year, so we want to still place high and help out our team by getting points," Neal said.

Along with the field events, hurdling events also lack attention compared to other events in girl's track. Both the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles gained many points for last year's team. However, the team is now looking to different people to fill the gaps left by last year's graduating hurdlers.

This year's team has expectations to far outdo what last's year's team did. Last year's team placed fourth in sectionals and fifteenth in regionals, and had just six athletes from the team graduate.

"I think we will grow as a team," Schmidt, co-captain, said. "Hopefully we can do better than last year and win a lot of meets."

The team finished last in their opening outdoor track meet against Huntington North and state-ranked Northrop. Northrop, which is currently ranked eighteenth in the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches' poll, won the meet, taking 90.5 of the 167 points.

"We definitely have things to improve on, but for our first meet against some very good teams we did okay," Smith said.

While the team struggled in their opening meet, the team will compete against just one more state ranked opponent, Carroll. The relatively weak NHC should benefit the team and help them improve on last year's fourth place performance.

While pole vaulting at Tuesday's meet against Carroll, Chloe Smith (11) pushes herself over the bar to advance to the next height.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Tradition provides comfort for sports fans

Chaos has ensued on the court at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Members of the team dressed in stars and stripes are dashing across the gym floor after the referee. A bucket is in the hands of the players as they chase down the poor zebra. Confetti has already been thrown on one section of the crowd by these same players. This bucket looks similar to the one before it, so the ref seems to let sown his guard. Wrong choice. Next thing the crowd knows, the referee is drenched as the Harlem Globetrotters dash away laughing and ridiculing the foolish ref for falling for their 82-year old water bucket trick.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

It is events like these that make the world of sports special. Fans of all sports are familiar with many of the most famous sports traditions of all time. Because the dependability of sporting events is so great, certain traditions, events, teams and causes have been able to survive the test of time. Without a sense of security and comfort, sports fans would have to essentially hit the restart button before every season. The die-hards would lose the common ground of unity with other fans.

In the current world of marketing and merchandising, many sports teams and clubs are losing their sense of tradition. Because many owners feel that the main purpose of a sports franchise is to make money, new uniforms, new stadiums, new colors and new players are being added or subtracted annually to and from many teams. Teams are losing that traditional identity that the founders of the organization tried to form so many years ago.

Some teams have a solid understanding of tradition. The New York Yankees and Chicago Cubs of Major League Baseball have used the same uniforms for decades now, whereas the Tampa Bay Rays have had three different sets of uniforms in their ten-year existence. The NBA has seen the same thing. Teams like the Atlanta Hawks, Washington Wizards and Milwaukee Bucks have changed team colors, even though these franchises had kept the same colors for almost forty years at a time beforehand.

With many teams selling off the naming rights to their new stadiums or arenas, it doesn't seem as if this loss of tradition will end in the near future. Money controls everything in today's sports world, and that is a sad thing. When teams are trying harder to sell the jerseys in their gift shops than the seats in their stadium, there is something terribly wrong.

Teams like the Yankees, Cubs, Chicago Bulls (NBA), Green Bay Packers (NFL) and Boston Celtics (NBA) are keeping the tradition of the sporting world on life support. These teams have found that new colors, new stadiums and new logos will not give their organization a better chance to win games. They have found the ingredients to the recipe for success.

Take the Globetrotters, for example. They have had the same red, white and blue stars and stripes-clad uniforms for over eight decades, and they have won over 22,000 games in their existence. Oh, did I mention that they have lost fewer than 350 games, as well? It seems that this globetrotting team from Harlem found the right balance between tradition and merchandising. Now, if only I could only get the Globetrotters to perform the water-bucket trick on sports league managers. They could use a splash of water to the face.

Fun, relaxed atmosphere attracts girls to play in summertime Aboite Softball League

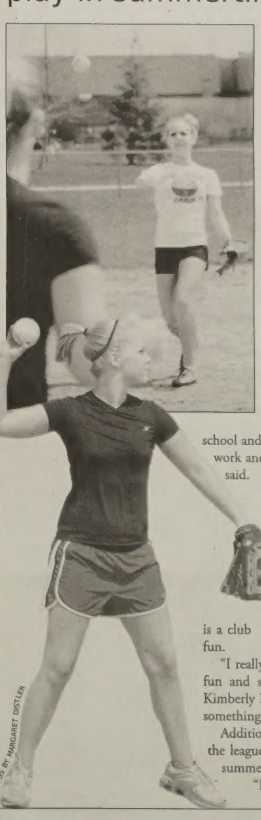


PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

BY KARA BUSSE
WRITER

Most people associate the word sports with words such as competition, rivalry, endurance, and stamina. In any game there is always the triumphant winner and the distressed loser. Rarely does one hear a varsity athlete relate practices and conditioning with the term fun. But unlike those varsity athletes, the girls who play in the Aboite Softball League have fun in most aspects of their practices and games.

"I've played ASL since 4th grade and it's fun to spend time with your friends when you're out of school and not thinking about homework and grades," Jenna Hoppe (9) said.

The Aboite Softball League is a slow-pitch softball league for girls all the way from t-ball to high school. Although there is a league tournament at the end of season for all of the teams, it is a club based on equality and fun.

"I really like it because it's just for fun and some of my friends play," Kimberly Bautz (9) said. "It gives me something to do in the summer."

Additionally, many girls feel that the league is a social activity for the summer months.

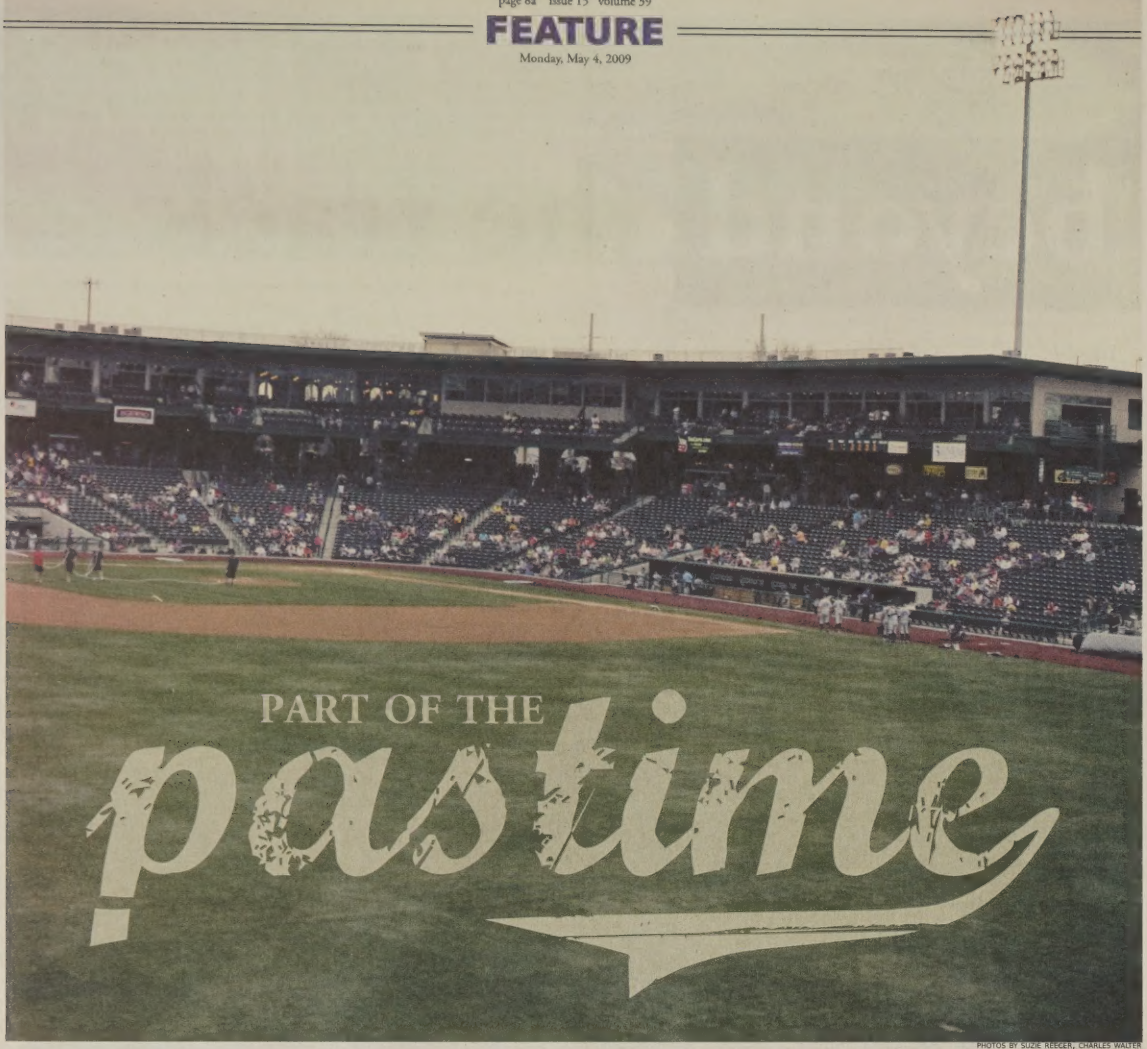
"I play in the Aboite Softball League because it's the off season of basketball and it's more fun when there's not cuts so all your friends can make the teams," Hoppe (9) said. "I love that we play with our friends and play against them. During the game we try to psyche each other out but after the game we shake hands and give hugs."

The main difference between fast-pitch softball and slow-pitch softball, aside from the pace of the pitch, is the level of competition. The ASL is a recreational, parent-run league that focuses on teaching the principles of softball, teamwork and sportsmanship while having fun. Everyone in the league bats and there is free substitution on the field. The rules state that every girl must play at least one inning in the infield and one in the outfield by the end of the fourth inning. Unlike the ASL, the local fast-pitch league has a group of different rules; the fast-pitch teams play to win.

"Fast-pitch is way more competitive," Bautz said. "It's not like a varsity sport. There are no 'do or die' games. I mean we want to win, but it's not a big deal if we lose."

Fun is something many varsity sports may have forgotten, but the Aboite Softball League knows how to make games, practices, and the sport of softball fun for everyone. Practices aren't for running teams to death and games aren't only for winning titles; it is all for fun and the love of the game. Without those elements, there would be no players, coaches, or fans to keep sports entertaining.

Top: Ally Brown (9) warms up with her sister Ashton (12), shown left.



PART OF THE pastime

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REEGER, CHARLES WALTER

New downtown venue for TinCaps baseball provides entertainment, jobs for community

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

Driving down Jefferson Road through Fort Wayne, one would witness an atmosphere filled with innovation and modern modifications. With hopes of drawing people to the city, Fort Wayne City officials have been working hard to improve the downtown area for the past few years, rebuilding both the Main Library and the Grand WayneCenter. However, although the addition of these buildings helped attract residents, a project far larger—and consequently more controversial—was in the making: Parkview Field.

While the proposal for the ballpark was not initially well received by the public, the plan was pursued, and in 2007, construction for the new baseball stadium began. Since its completion as the home of the Fort Wayne TinCaps, fans have flooded downtown to visit the innovative venue and enjoy America's favorite pastime.

"I am excited to see how the stadium does in a couple of years, because it is a great new opportunity for Fort Wayne," Grant Rowan (12), a TinCaps Merchandise vendor, said. "The old stadium was starting to not look so nice, and this one turned out great."

> "I AM EXCITED TO SEE HOW THE STADIUM DOES IN A COUPLE OF YEARS, BECAUSE IT IS A GREAT NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR FORT WAYNE. THE OLD STADIUM WAS STARTING TO NOT LOOK SO NICE, AND THIS ONE TURNED OUT GREAT."
> -GRANT ROWAN (12)
> TINCAPS MERCHANDISE VENDOR

Compared to the old Memorial Coliseum stadium, Parkview Field was built with the intent of allowing spectators to see the game from almost every angle. The fan-friendly ballpark includes shops and over 50 concession kiosks that require little walking and still allow the visitors to watch the game while making their purchases. At a first glance, the new field of the TinCaps appears smaller than the Memorial Stadium, the former home of Fort Wayne's minor league baseball team; however, looks can be deceiving. Whereas Memorial Stadium had a crammed capacity of 6,300, the new downtown field can hold around 8,000.

At Parkview Field, the excitement is contagious with fans chanting "Hey batter, batter, batter," before each crack of the bat. Everyone is energized, and every time a batter steps up to the plate, "the wave" does a circle around the stadium, showing the positive feedback towards the new team. Adding to the experience, everything at the stadium is TinCap-themed. From the green and red trash cans to the ice cream bowls, to the new apple mascot with a tin cap walking around the park, fans find ways to engage in team spirit in every way possible.

"At first I thought the TinCaps name was pointless, but now it's growing on me," Melissa Kay (12), a ticket booth operator at Parkview Field, said. Kay feels the mascot is more "kid-friendly" and fits the city well.

While Harrison Square was not supported by Fort Wayne residents in the early stages, the attendance of the first few games suggests the ballpark may in fact be a positive aspect in reviving downtown. Some area high school students are looking forward to hanging out at the venue over the summer, while others see it as a place for potential jobs.

"At the local job fair, there were over 2,000 applications to work here, and only 200 jobs to fill," Karen Schieber, TinCaps Merchandise Manager, said. "When applying for a job we were looking for people that like working, are outgoing, have a good personality and like to work with other people. This is an excellent first job for people because they get to experience working around people, organization and handling money. Also it is fun for teenagers, because they get to watch the ball game."

Along with free admission to games, there are other perks to working at Parkview Field.

"When we are working, we get half off on the food, which is great, because then on our breaks we can get food and not have to pay full price," Molly Hinderman (11), who primarily works in The Kid Zone, said. "I picked this job as a summer job because I love to work with kids and other people."

From supervising restless kids jumping on The Kid Zone moon bounce to running the pitching and batting cages, Hinderman's responsibilities change from day to day. The children's' area also includes play equipment and a rock wall. With numerous available tasks at the field adding to the fun ballpark atmosphere, jobs at the new field provide solid summer employment opportunities for students who are busy during the school year.

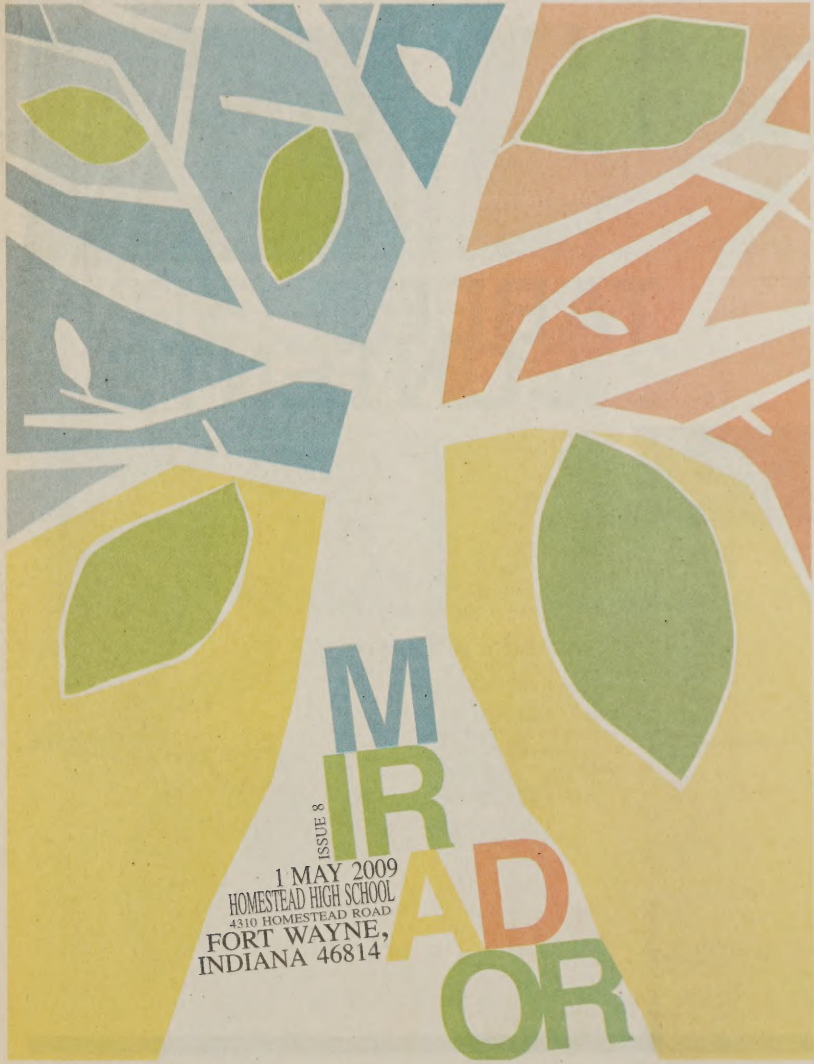
"This job was great for me because I wanted to work somewhere that was sports-oriented, and this is the beginning of the season for baseball, which lets me have this job all summer," Kay said.

The opening TinCaps game sold-out in 27 minutes, with over 500 standing room only tickets sold to anxious fans. With excitement increasing at every crack of the bat, the TinCaps management hopes that fans continue their great support of the team and other events at Harrison Square. For students who enjoy sports and working with others, a job at Harrison Square next summer might be one to consider, but for everyone around Fort Wayne, Parkview Field is sure to provide quality entertainment.

BACK HOME AGAIN

Every day between tomorrow and next Sunday there will be a home TinCaps game at Parkview Field.
Monday, May 4 at 7:05 p.m.
Tuesday, May 5 at 7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, May 6 at 11:05 a.m.
Thursday, May 7 at 7:05 p.m.
Friday, May 8 at 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, May 9 at 4:05 p.m.
Sunday, May 10 at 3:05 p.m.
Saturday, May 16 at 4:05 p.m.
Sunday, May 17 at 3:05 p.m.

Top: The new Parkview Field can hold between 8,000 and 9,000 people. Second Top: Feeding the ball machine, Molly Hinderman (11) works in The Kid Zone during each home game. Top Left: Michael Willey (9), Haylie Miller (9), and Chase Payne (10) enjoy the game from their spots on the lawn. Left: Folding a new shirt for fans, Grant Rowan (12) works to keep the merchandise in order at the TinCaps store.



ISSUE 8
1 MAY 2009
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
4310 HOMESTEAD ROAD
FORT WAYNE,
INDIANA 46814

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Right-brained: A student looks at sketches by Michael Buchanan (11), seen in the Fine Arts Gallery during Spring Arts Week (pg. 7).

TABLE of CONTENTS

PHOTO BY WWW.BRICKTHREWGLASS.COM

Movie Review: Perhaps viewers should turn away from the east coast to avoid this predictable downer (pg. 13).

3 The Many Moods of Dr. Hensley

5 Fine Arts Gallery

9 Radical Recreation

11 Curbside Creep

12 Dialogue Dilemma

13 Movie Review: The Haunting in Connecticut

14 Video Game Review: Resident Evil 5

» **mir·a·dor (mr-dôr, -dr)**
n. a window, balcony, or turret designed to command a broad view

Editor in Chief: Stephanie Zimmerman
Associate Editor: Megan Herbert
Photographer: Suzie Reecer
Writers: Noah Gayer, Tess Anglin, Kati Vail, Cam Kaminski

Outside class: Right: Shoaff Park golf disc course (pg. 7). Below: Parking lot scares call for increased security (pg. 11).

PHOTO BY MEGAN HERBERT

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

RELEASES & EVENTS

STAR TREK
PHOTO BY WWW.CHANNEL4.COM

GREEN DAY
PHOTO BY WWW.SUPERMUSIC.SK

RUBEN STUDDARD
PHOTO BY WWW.SUPERHEROHYPE.COM

FT WAYNE BALLET
PHOTO BY WWW.FREEWEBS.COM

MOVIE RELEASES

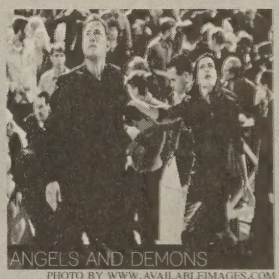
5/1 X-Men Origins: Wolverines, Battle for Tera, Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, The Last Lullaby
5/8 Star Trek, Next Day Air, Little Ashes
5/15 Angels and Demons, Management, The Brothers Bloom, Summer Hours
5/21 Dance Flick, Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian, The Girlfriend Experience
5/22 Terminator Salvation

MUSIC RELEASES

5/5 Hatebreed, ISIS, Paul Potts, Yusuf Islam
5/15 Green Day
5/19 Eminem, Iggy Pop, Ruben Studdard
5/26 Marilyn Manson, Mandy Moore

CONCERTS

5/19 Elton John and Billy Joel (8 PM) Conseco Fieldhouse Indianapolis, $53.50-179.50
5/13 Disturbed (2 PM) Roberts Stadium Evansville, $78-407


ANGELS AND DEMONS
PHOTO BY WWW.AVAILABLEIMAGES.COM

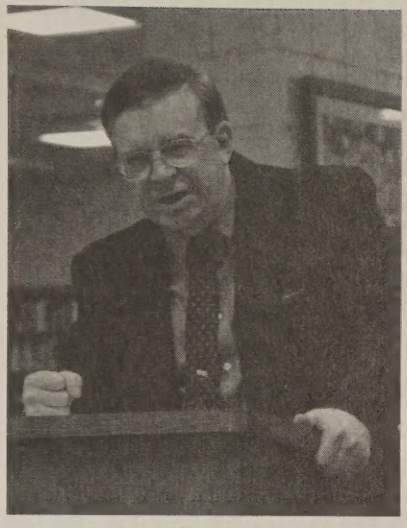
MEMORIAL COLISEUM

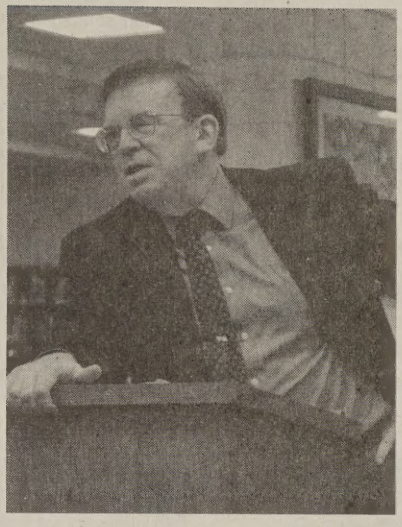
5/10 WWE Smackdown & ECW Live
5 PM, $17-57
5/30 Jeff Dunham "Spark of Insanity"
8 PM, $44.50

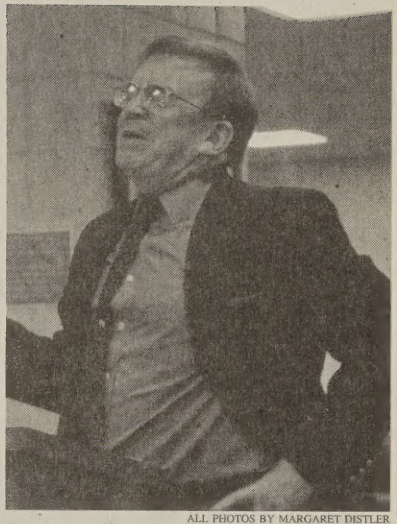
DANCING AT THE ZOO

Join the Fort Wayne Ballet Youth Company at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo to see a ballet peformance from the dance students
4/17 1 & 3 PM
F.W. Children's Zoo

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock? Come to my arms, my beamish boy! O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!" He chortled in his joy. 'Twas brillig,







ALL PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

THE MANY MOODS OF DR. DENNIS E. HENSLEY

Students read works, English teacher emphasizes "The Power of Words"

English Eats: Mr. Fisher listens as Dr. Hensley speaks to a group of students at dinner before the event.

BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN
WRITER

There are few people in this world that can make "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" seem as if it had come straight out of the mouth of Tupac. But when Dr. Dennis E. Hensley recited the famous Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem during a lecture in the IMC Thursday, April 23–tapping his hands against the podium in rhythm, extracting raw emotion out of the simplest words–he could have convinced a dead fish that poetry was cool.

Hensley, the director of the professional writing major at Taylor University, knew he wanted to be a writer when he took an Honors English class his senior year of high school in Bay, Michigan. Now–50 books and 3,000 newspaper and magazine articles later–he resides as one of the top authorities on literature in the Midwest, as well as a popular public speaker.

and the slithy toves; Did gyre and gimble in the wabe; All mimsy were the borogroves, and the mome raths outgrabe." -Lewis Carroll, "Jabberwocky"

So, he was an obvious choice to call when English teacher Connie Christophersen and Alpha Parent volunteer Carla Overdahl wanted to organize a night for students to share their work. They wanted to allow students to gain some insight into professional writing and step away from, according to Overdahl, the "solitude" normally associated with creative writing.

"Dr. Hensley was one of the greatest speakers I have ever heard," said Clark Trexler (12). "He was able to take practical lessons on writing and not only keep us awake, but keep us interested as well–a genuine original."

Part of Hensley's appeal lies in his ability to blend a series of stories, anecdotes, and humor to illustrate his points.

To emphasis the importance of the sound, rhythm, cadence, denotation and connotation of writing, Hensley recited a poem by Lewis Carroll. Originally seen in Carroll's novel "Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There," the poem, "Jabberwocky"–not to be confused with America's Best Dance Crew–was written in a way to stress the importance of sounds.

Carroll purposely made up over half of the words in the poem, so that the sounds that the words made would translate the meaning of the poem, not the actual meaning of the words. So, when Hensley recited the poem, uttering pure nonsense, his audience understood its message, even though they had no idea what a "borogrove" or a "Jabberwock" was.

Before Hensley spoke, ten senior AP Composition students, including Trexler, volunteered to read one of their literary works. The readings proved to be a new form of catharsis for some, as the emotion of the works–some of which focused on death and personal struggles–came out with each audible line.

Christy Tatara (12) read from an essay she had written, entitled "A Moment in Time," which traced her grandmother's memory loss after the onset of Alzheimer's. "Reading aloud put more meaning into my essay because I was able to tell people about the pain and fear," said Tatara. "Apparently, one lady cried during the reading."

> "Reading aloud put more meaning into my essay because I was able to tell people about the pain and fear of [my grandmother's] Alzheimer's."
> CHRISTY**TATARA(12)**

Other works, such as David Ramsey's (12) "Definition of the Second Fiddle," exacted a different response. Ramsey traced the struggle of popular video game character Luigi, who is cursed with an inferiority complex as a result of Mario's unyielding control of the limelight. "Kermit the Frog said that 'it's not easy being green,'" read Ramsey. "He had nothing on Luigi."

As the night wrapped up and all Mushroom Kingdom family feuds were put to rest for one more day, Hensley ended with an anecdote about a talented diver who traveled to the dangerous Acapulco cliff in Mexico, but could not muster up the courage to take the plunge.

The point? "Never fear rejection," said Hensley. "Write a lot, find good people to critique and evaluate your writing and keep doing more."

SENIOR**WORKS**

Excerpts from the works of three of the ten seniors who participated in the readings:

ALYCIA**MATZ**

"On close inspection, you may see the pale, sea green clay caked in the crevices underneath my fingernails, for I am never quite able to rid myself of all of it. Perhaps you may notice the entire color spectrum represented in the form of acrylic paint splatters on my clothing and skin. A more conspicuous sign may be the smears of the medium of the day–whether that be graphite, charcoal, or pastel–on the side of my hand and forearm, a result stemming from being left-handed. If that did not give it away, then surely the large, white portfolio I often tote around would provide a hint. Regardless, all signs point to one fact: I am an artist." **("Medium Through Medium")**

ANNA**ORLOW**

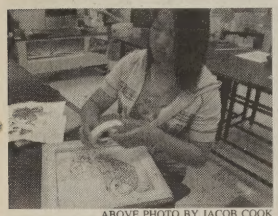
"I do what I should have done a long time ago; without caring or watching, I allow myself to cry. I neither hold back or exaggerate. My agony is pure. It is true. And the pain is the greatest suffering I have ever experienced." **("A Necessary Healing")**

KYLE**LUITHLY**

"We are flames in the dark, lighting the way through our actions to lead this nation to safety. When all else fades, when the world is about to end not with a bang, but with a whimper, when darkness multiplies, fully intent on covering Liberty's flame, we are called in. It's an imperfect world, but it's the only one we have. We fight to protect all that is pure, all that is good and true. We are flames in the dark, freely choosing to sacrifice our lives to protect the lives of 300 million Americans. I am an American soldier." **("American Soldier")**

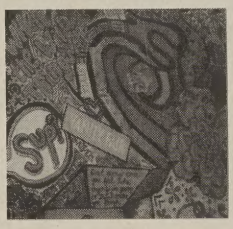
rising talent

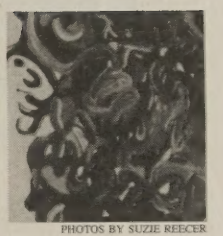
Weave: Left: Baskets created by Joanna Nguyen (10) on display in the fine arts gallery. Below: Nguyen during art class.



ABOVE PHOTO BY JACOB COOK
LEFT PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

+ fine arts gallery





PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

"There are no pressures or restrictions; you just do what you want. You always have your art, no matter what stage of life you're at. It's always there." -megan procise (11)

megan procise (11)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

"Painting is relaxing for me. Plus, I get to do whatever I want on a blank canvas. There aren't any limits or expectations–just freedom."

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

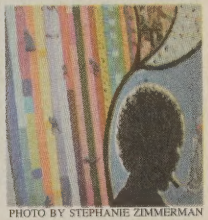


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

morgan beard (12)

"During the process, your work doesn't always look like much, but as you continue to put in the time and effort, repeatedly perfecting it, you begin to see your piece transform into the idea you had pictured in your mind. In the end, it is just a great feeling to see the finished result."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

clea endres (12)

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

andrea dunn (12)

"I like being able to capture the moment and show people a new perspective to ordinary things."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

marce patrick (11)

"Art in itself allows me to express myself for who I am and what people can not see."

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

collette spears (12)

It's nice to be good at something that doesn't involve memorizing a bunch of facts and dates, but just comes naturally and easily."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

haley laudadio (12)

"Ceramics is a major stress reliever. It's really rewarding after a pot turns out well."

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

caitlin kelley (12)

karen trexler (10)

"I hope to continue my art outside of high school. I'd love to make jewelry for a career, and I hope to work on it through college."

william gehring (11)

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

On the edge: Jonathan Park (12) skates in the football stadium after school.

RADICAL recreation

BY TESS ANGLIN
WRITER

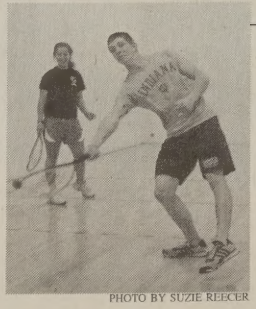


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Boxed in: Zach Stine (12) and Mallory Harber (12) play at the downtown YMCA.

"Racquetball is a fun and easy way to exercise."
MALLORY **HARBER**

RACQUETBALL

Mallory Harber (12) first became interested in racquetball when she played it on "Y-night" for her youth group.

"Racquetball is a fun and easy way to exercise," Harber explains. Racquetball is played with two to four people and the courts are easily accessible at the downtown YMCA on Berry Street. Harber suggests playing first with someone who has enough experience to "show you the ropes" before you attempt it yourself.

IN-LINE HOCKEY

In-line hockey is played with teams of four and is very similar to ice hockey, minus the ice and off sides and with roller blades replacing the typical ice skates. "In-line hockey is fun because you can just play around and not be competitive," says Casey Spurgeon (11), who plays in-line hockey at the Plex. "Plus, it is really cheap." He says he enjoys the league at the Plex because of its laid-back atmosphere and the casual approach to a fun sport.

STICK&PUCK**NIGHTS**
Location: The Plex
Time: 7-9 PM
Cost: $8 for pickup game, $125 for league play; includes jersey and playoffs
Contact: Brandon West, (260)496-9999 ext.43

PHOTO BY THEEDGEOFHOCKEY.COM

Plex: The Plex is the only facility in Fort Wayne that offers in-line hockey leagues for all ages and skill levels.

PHOTO BY NORTHALLEGHENY.COM

CRICKET

Cricket originated in England, and is now played in over 100 countries. Cricket is played between two teams of eleven players and follows rules similar to baseball. Ani Yalamanchali (10) enjoys playing cricket in his free time, first playing in India. But when Yalmanchali plays cricket, he doesn't really keep score, but "just hits around."

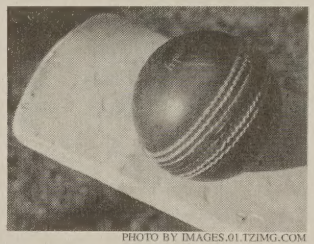
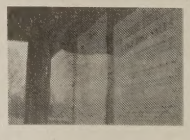


PHOTO BY IMAGES.01.TZIMG.COM

PHOTOS BY STEPH ZIMMERMAN



Fore: Above: Sara Parker (12) and Chelsea Hanauer (12) play a round of disc golf at Shoaff Park. Left: A display for the Fort Disc Golf League informs members of upcoming tournaments.

DISC GOLF

Disc golf is similar to regular golf; both have courses with 9 or 18 holes with the same scoring system. The main difference is that a Frisbee replaces the golf ball and a basket or target replaces the hole. Alastair Dawson (12) is an occasional disc golfer who first began playing with friends in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"Just like it took a unique person to invent basketball, it took a unique person to invent disc golf. I would have said it was kind of strange, but look where it is today!"
JASON**SMITH**
Pro Disc Golf Player

Jason Smith, a professional disc golf player in Fort Wayne, has been a professional player for four years. Smith is amazed with the growing popularity of disc golf and hopes that it will continue to grow. Smith said that a league for beginners now starting at Shoaff Park is a great place to start. The league provides an opportunity to play against yourself and challenge yourself to improve while just having fun.

"Disc golf is more challenging than regular golf, because of the mental aspects of trying to dodge the trees and staying in bounds," Smith explains.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN HERBERT

CURBSIDE *CREEPS*

Scary experiences legitimize claims about dangers of parking lots

BY MEGAN HERBERT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The roads are a scary place for new drivers. High school students go from riding the bus and being chauffeured by their parents to driving on their own, forced to fend for themselves. Parents will always say "drive safe" and "be careful," but who listens to that when the road is waiting?

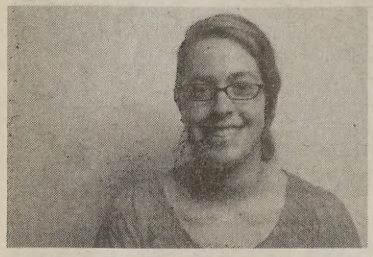
Every new driver starts out slightly paranoid: checking every mirror, stopping on every yellow light, and just barely driving over the speed limit. But as time passes, and drivers become more relaxed, a certain carefree manner sets in. This is when trouble starts to brew. Even when it comes to going in and out of stores, especially malls, danger can await drivers who become ignorant of their surroundings.

Chelsea Peters (11) was shopping in Scotts when she noticed a group of Hispanic men following her. Rushing through her purchase, the men followed her to her car. Nothing came of the incident, but Peters was shaken. "I was like holy crap, I hope they don't kill me," said Peters, "and I got in my car and drove away really fast."

Some, like Molly Harber (12), have developed plans for avoiding potential threats. It was just getting dark when Harber was driving to a friend's house. She swerved on the road and the driver behind her started to follow her and flash his lights.

After about ten minutes of this, Harber pulled into a fire station. While she was calling the fire station to get the firemen to come and confront the man, the driver tried to get in her car. "It was probably the scariest thing ever because this guy was following me for no reason and I didn't know what he was going to do," said Harber.

Becky Katz (11) found out about an active sexual predator named Jerry Kevin Hillegas through an e-mail to her mom. She says that Hillegas drives a 2006 Hyundai Gallant that is light blue. By flashing his lights, Hillegas gets girls to pull over, and then he abducts, rapes, and stabs his victims. After he was seen cruising around the Homestead and Huntington North High School parking lots, numerous calls for student awareness followed. "Watch out for this guy!" said Katz. So when walking to your car, just take a look around before driving off. You never know what dangers lurk around the corner.



"They never use the word 'is.' It's perfectly acceptable and grammatically correct to say "she student" in Hebrew."

The Dialogue Dilemma

BY MOLLY ZWEIG
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

I came to Israel for a semester knowing an embarrassingly little amount of Hebrew. Even though I had studied the language for years at Sunday School, I guess I learned more prayer book Hebrew than practical words. When I stepped off the plane here in January, my vocabulary arsenal included words such as "cucumber," "hello," and "peace," and the lone phrase "how much does it cost?" I didn't even know how to ask for a bathroom, so it was not a surprise when getting around the country without knowing the language proved to be a challenge.

As part of my American high school program, we have conversational Hebrew class for nearly two hours every day. There are about a dozen levels of Hebrew studies offered, because the students range from teens who are fluent to those kids, like me, who basically need to start from the beginning. To place us in the correct class, we took a five-page Hebrew test in the middle of January. I can confidently say that I could write my name and identify the phrase "good morning" on the first half of page one. That was all.

I've studied languages before: Latin briefly and Spanish more seriously. I was able to learn those fairly quickly. That's not the case with Hebrew. One of the biggest challenges with Hebrew is that it lacks some of the standard conventions that English has. The language is written from right to left. No capital or lowercase letters are used, and a different set of characters are utilized. They never use the word "is." It's perfectly acceptable and grammatically correct to say "she student" in Hebrew.

But I want to be able to speak the language well. Every time we go out, I always try, and fail, to converse in Hebrew. I always seem to get the gender of my verb mixed up, immediately giving away my poor language skills. Likewise, I have such an obvious American accent that Israelis don't even bother talking to me in Hebrew because it's easier for everyone if they just speak in English. I did feel a sense of accomplishment recently when going to a frozen yogurt store and correctly ordering the fruit flavors in Hebrew. My limited skills also were sufficient to explain to a cab driver how to get me where I was going to in Jerusalem. Despite my small vocabulary and conversational skills, I'm working hard to get better.

In the meantime, the only thing going for me in this situation is that most people in Israel speak English. Starting in first or second grade, Israeli kids begin to learn English in public school. All of the road and street signs are in Hebrew, Arabic, and English, so I can figure out where we are without too much trouble. The grocery store is a bit harder because much of the packaging is in Hebrew, but at least my favorite Oreo cookie labels are still in English. And, of course, my vocabulary now includes how to ask for a bathroom. Necessity helps inspire language learning.

BASIC**HEBREW**

HELLO: Shalom
YES: Ken
NO: Lo
THANKS: Toda
COOL: Sababa
GOOD MORNING: Boker tov
BITE ME: Kfotz li
FLOOSY: Frecha
GEEK: Laflaf
CONGRATULATIONS: Mazal tov
FIRE!: Esh

PHOTO BY MOLLY ZWEIG

Drink to that: A Diet Coke, labeled in Hebrew.

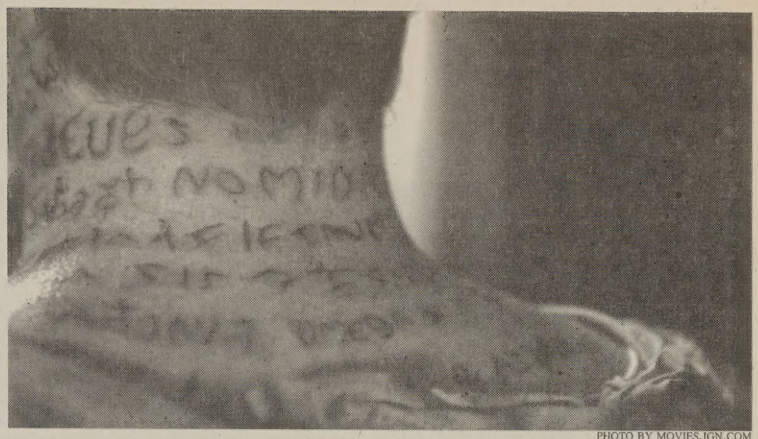


PHOTO BY MOVIES.IGN.COM

Medical trauma: An experimental cancer treatment program leads to a fatal tragedy.

haunting in CONNECTICUT

New horror movie based on a true story proves to be predictable dud

PHOTO BY SCREENHEAD.COM

Deadly move: The Campbell family moves into a haunted house that leads to hallucinations.

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

Nothing is as it seems in Connecticut. Except when it comes to "The Haunting in Connecticut," where every character, plot line, and thunderstorm seems to be the culmination of every horror film made in the past thirty years.

The "Haunting in Connecticut" follows the story of the Campbell family. The son, Matt, is undergoing an experimental cancer treatment far from home. Matt's parents decide that the best thing for Matt is to move closer to the hospital, so his mother goes hunting for a home in Goatswood, Connecticut. She finds a cheap rental home that seems too good to be true, but the landlord notes that the house has "history."

The Campbells get a little more than they bargained for, pun intended, when they move into the Victorian style home in upstate Connecticut. Matt begins having hallucinations, and the family finds out the home is a former funeral home fully equipped with a crematory and embalming room. He eventually realizes his hallucinations are more than just a product of his cancer treatment and the home's gruesome past is slowly revealed. While paranormal occurrences haunt each member of the Campbell family, a priest Matt met in the hospital tries to help the spirits that reside in the old funeral home. This leads to the predictable end as the family and the priest attempt to rid the house of its evil.

"The Haunting in Connecticut" is not the scariest movie out there, but it does a have a number of moments that will have viewers jumping out of their seats. The dark lighting produces a sinister ambiance. There are many disturbing photographs of corpses and flashing visions that Matt has, but these scenes can be overwhelming as well as slightly annoying because they are blurry and shaky. The film could have done with better music selections, though; the violin screeches at the typical moments only add to the predictable nature of the film.

Kyle Gallner expertly plays a close-to-death Matt, while Virginia Madsen and Martin Donovan appropriately depict stressed-out parents going through a separation and coping with a very sick son. Elias Koteas also adds to the film with his part as the reverend who tries to exorcise the home.

The main downfall of "The Haunting in Connecticut" is its overall predictability. The story is too typical in modern horror films. People move into a haunted house. One character finds out it is haunted, while the others gradually uncover the truth. A religious figure steps in to provide help, and there is an attempt to rid the house of its evil. Sound familiar?

The "Haunting in Connecticut" is just another mediocre horror film released to make a quick buck from teenagers. It has an overused story line with a bit of a twist, and it uses the deceiving "based on a true story" tool to pull in and falsely intrigue vulnerable lovers of horror. Those looking for a gory hack-and-slash motion picture should steer clear as should those looking for a movie worth the price of a matinee ticket. There is nothing extraordinary to find on this trip to Connecticut.

PHOTO BY WWW.BLOGS.INQUIRER.NET

Team play: Resident Evil 5 adopts a new cooperative strategy as the main player is paired up with a partner throughout the game.

RESIDENT EVIL 5

Capcom's latest addition to popular series refuses to disappoint

BY NOAH GAYER
WRITER

"Resident Evil...5!"

The phrase is uttered in a deep, raspy voice as the newest Resident Evil game loads up the main menu and a player hits the start button to continue the fight against the Umbrella Corporation's disastrous infection. This installment in the long-running series is rated M and has enough violence and blood to prove it. Unanswered questions from previous games are wrapped up, while new characters and enemies are introduced.

In Resident Evil 5, players assume the role of Chris Redfield, an agent of a militant anti-bioorganic weapons organization called the B.S.A.A. He travels wherever he is ordered to destroy creations of the infamous Umbrella Corporation, a former pharmaceutical company gone wrong with their disastrous genetic experiments. Chris goes to Africa to prevent Uroboros, a doomsday scheme. He arrives and meets Sheva Alomar, who becomes his partner.

The mechanics for Resident Evil 5 are similar to its predecessor. It takes time to get used to the controls of the game, which don't allow a player to move while shooting, but the majority of moves and actions are smooth. The computer animations–such as when a player drop kicks a zombie-like African villager and then turns 180-degrees to sprint away from an enemy with a chainsaw–are impressive.

The graphics in Resident Evil 5 show the extent of time the game's creators took to make all the textures smooth, without sacrificing the frame rate. Whether a grass hut, Chris' handgun or Sheva's wardrobe, everything in the game is polished and crisp. Some of the cut scenes are so graphically well done that it seems to be taken right out of a movie.

The Resident Evil series began as a survival horror game, but since Resident Evil 4, the series has transitioned into an action game with a handful of creepy enemies. Gore remains entertaining, especially when players are able to pop off enemy heads with the weapon of their choosing. Chris and Sheva both have signature moves to take out infected people with uppercuts, right hooks, kicks and stomps. The addition of a companion to fight with in Resident Evil 5 changes the experience dramatically. Sheva provides some help, but the only downfall to having a computer controlled partner is that she does not have a great deal of intelligence.

PHOTO BY BEEFJAKC.COM

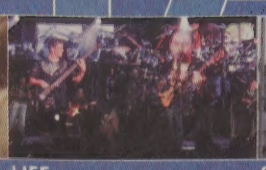
Nuclear warfare: Main character Chris Redfield is an agent of a militant anti-bioorganic weapons organization called the B.S.A.A.

In the new co-op mode, another person can take over Sheva. This can be done in split-screen or online. The game also can be played with multiple players online, but can not compare to other multiplayer games on the market right now; it ceases to be entertaining after a few short hours.

Although the game mechanics are sometimes hard to get used to, Resident Evil 5 has stunning visuals and superb environments. It may not have the deepest story line, but when a game involves hoards of blood and the killing of masses of mangled mutants, a storyline is hardly needed to keep this game engaging. Resident Evil 5 is worth the purchase.

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 16 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814



['09-'10 Student Government Electorates]

fresh faces

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Next school year's executives chosen

PRESIDENT
Quinn Brenneke

VICE PRESIDENT
Ashley Meruani

TREASURER
Joanna Nguyen

SECRETARY
Mandy Sherer

SENIOR PRESIDENT
Suzie Reecer

JUNIOR PRESIDENT
Anuj Khemka

SOPHOMORE PRESIDENT
Sahand Emamian

FRESHMEN PRESIDENTS
Caleb Norris
Jack Hagedorn

BY PRIYA PARIKH
WRITER

As the school year draws to a close and summer is on everyone's mind, certain dedicated student groups, like Student Government, are already looking to next year to begin planning their respective agendas.

Student Government elections were recently held for the various executive and class representative positions available in the class. Numerous students ran for positions to serve the student body in the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. With anticipation high, the results were finally announced last week.

> "I will definitely work on getting the administration to pay more attention to the students. We've been having some problems with that lately."
>
> **SAHAND EMAMIAN (9)**
> Future Sophomore Class President

The executive board includes President Quinn Brenneke (11), Vice President Ashley Meruani (11), Treasurer Joanna Nguyen (10), Secretary Mandy Sherer (10) and Public Relations Coordinator Carolyn Mutton (11). The senior class president for the upcoming year is Suzie Reecer (11), the junior class president Anuj Khemka (10) and sophomore class president Sahand Emamian (9).

Because new students will be holding positions in student government, many changes are also expected to be implemented for the upcoming school year.

Brenneke plans to make changes that will generate more money for student government, and allow more students' opinions to be heard.

"In the past, the backroom has been a strong financial contributor to our organization, but since its closing last year, and its slow comeback this year, sales have been down," Brenneke said. "I am determined to revive its popularity among the student population. I'm planning on making next year a year of improvement. I am really going to focus my efforts as president to make sure the voice of the student body is heard.

I know that in a big school, it's easy for a voice to get lost among the crowd, so I want everyone's opinions to be heard, and I have already started discussion in Student Government about the best ways we can approach this problem."

While it's important to have Student Government listen to the voices of the stu-

New Faces, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Prom costs run students hefty tab

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

The high school prom can certainly be considered a landmark in a young person's life, and it is for this reason that Homestead has been abuzz the last few weeks. It comes as no surprise that expectations for this year's prom are higher than ever, but the momentous occasion is definitely not cheap, with a tuxedo or dress, dinner and even a limo rental. Money has been tight, especially for teenagers on minimum wage, and it remains to be seen that this will play a role in the final grandeur of prom this year.

There are a number of factors that contribute to the total cost of prom. There are the tickets, a staggering $25 each, tux rental for guys (upwards of $100), a dress for girls, possibly a limo (up to $1500 for 7 hours) and dinner at a nice restaurant ($15 or more per person). These things separately strain anyone's funds, but combined they seem almost outrageous.

Although prom is very expensive, it is widely agreed that the experience is worth the expense.

"Prom can be expensive depending on how much you want to buy or pay for, but in the end it is definitely worth it because everyone looks so nice and dressed up for such an amazing night," Taylor Wall (11) said.

Other students share a similar toleration of high prices.

"It's a good opportunity to get dressed up and spend a fun night with friends, and it's really a rite of passage during the years of high school," Patricia McMillin (11) said.

Even though the costs of prom have not deterred most students from attending, they have persuaded some to cut back or go the modest route. For example, some groups have decided that eating dinner at the most expensive local restaurants is going a bit overboard.

"Everyone has already spent a lot of money on what they are wearing, and I just feel like it's pointless to spend so much on dinner," McMillin said,

However, others, especially

Prom, continued on 2a

THE EXPENSES

PROM TICKETS	$25 each
TUXEDO RENTAL	Upwards of $100*
GIRL'S DRESS	Upwards of $150*
LIMO RENTAL	$1,500 for 7 hours
DINNER	$15 or more each*
BOUTONNIERRE	$5 to $20

*Numbers are approximate

Seniors to compromise masculinity in contest

Student Government plans male beauty pageant

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMAN

The first competition of its type ever held at Homestead, the Mr. Spartan Contest will consist of individual talent, question-and-answer and dress portions.

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ISSUE NEWS EDITOR

Beauty. Poise. Intelligence. Confidence. Talent. While these words are probably not the first that come to mind when one thinks of the male half of the senior population, a new beauty contest, Mr. Spartan, will test a group of senior boys in all of these areas. It will ultimately determine which guy has what it takes to take the crown.

This year marks the first time that Homestead will hold the Mr. Spartan male beauty pageant. The pageant will be held this upcoming Thursday, May 21, in the auditorium at 7 p.m., at which time 18 senior boys will compete for the coveted title of Mr. Spartan.

It will begin with a group dance, immediately followed by the Mr. Spar-

Spartan, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

TEST TAKER Matthew Amberg (12) **TEST** AP Psychology **FORMAT** 70-minute multiple-choice section and 50-minute free-response section **REACTION** "The AP Psychology exam did not seem to be very challenging. The course material was easily studied and the format of the test made taking it very smooth," Indy Singh (11)

AP students complete, stress May cumulative assessments

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

Today, Friday, May 15, ends one of the most stressful weeks of the school year: AP testing week. Whether it's Calculus or World History, many students stress and cram as much information into their brains as they can before the test. To prepare, some study a little bit each night, while others study a lot for only a few nights. Some rely on their own knowledge, and don't study at all.

In the past two weeks, administrators and counselors alike have administered tests ranging from morning tests, such as U.S. Government, Calculus and Chemistry, to afternoon tests, such as French Language, Spanish Language and Psychology. The amount of studying a test taker did can leave them feeling confident or questionable about their performance on a particular test.

"I thought [the AP U.S. History exam] was quite easy," Sarah Ridenour (10) said. "I thought that [Tom] Stephenson helped me prepare very well, even though he wasn't here [the week before the AP test, due to illness]."

While some students think a particular exam was easy, others can think the same exam was difficult.

AP, continued on 2a

NATIONAL AVERAGE AP EXAM SCORES, 2008

TEST	Score	TEST	Score	TEST	Score
WORLD HISTORY	2.56	LITERATURE	2.84	CALCULUS AB	3.03
U.S. HISTORY	2.57	COMPOSITION	2.82	CHEMISTRY	2.80

BRIEFS

ACADEMIC AWARDS NIGHT
The Academics Awards Program will be held on Tuesday, May 9 in the auditorium. At this special event, students of each grade will be recognized for outstanding academic performance in specific areas of study. The freshman, sophomore and junior program will last from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m., followed by the senior program from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. Recipients are strongly encouraged to attend.

FREE ATHLETIC PHYSICALS
Fort Wayne Orthopedics is offering free athletic physicals on Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. All interested athletes must have an IHSAA physical form on file dated after May 1, 2009. Physical forms can be picked up in the athletic office and should be completed with insurance information as well as student and parent signatures before athletes can participate in any tryout or competition.

BAGAN AWARDED BY STATE
Varsity participant Tori Bagan (10) was recognized for the 2009 Indiana Swimming and Diving Performance of the Year presented by the state's coaches association. Acknowledged for her 100-yard breaststroke, Bagan swam a time of 1:02.25 in the preliminary event and 1:02.83 in the state competition.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Ecology Work-Study Program
PAGE 3A, Opinion: Sexism in Mr. Spartan Race, Left and Write, Ed Board: City Casino
PAGE 4A, Life: Fort Wayne Prom Restaurants Review
PAGE 5A, Life: Outdoor Concert Season, Maher's Upbringing, Losing Our Faith
PAGE 6A, Sports: Rain Delays, Girls' Tennis, Profile: Jon Finley
PAGE 7A, Sports: Track and Field, **Softball**, Full Court Press
PAGE 8A, Feature: Zesto's Gender Gap

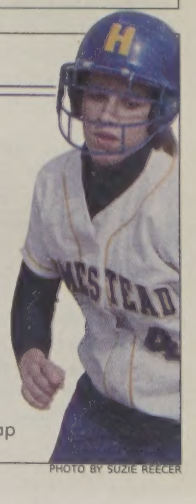


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Ecology pupils offered summer program

BY STEPHANIE PONTON
ISSUE NEWS EDITOR

This summer, ecology students will get a chance to use the skills they learned in the classroom and apply them to help the environment through an optional work-study program. This program offers students the opportunity to volunteer at the environmental center and do various ecological improvement works in the area. These students not only have the satisfaction of knowing they made a difference, but they then also get rewarded for their challenging work by going on a trip to Michigan.

From June 8 to 11, ecology classes will be hard at work in the environmental center doing projects around the center like mulching trails, painting and repairing picnic tables, repairing trail markers, mowing grass, splitting wood, clearing out the waterways and trimming plants along the trails.

"I wanted to [volunteer] because I think I can learn a great deal about the environment and how I, as an individual, can help to make it better," Liz Turkette (10) said. "I'm most excited about the learning aspect and just knowing that I will be making a difference, even though it may be small."

If students decide to contribute their work in the work-study program, they are then able to go on a trip to Michigan with other ecology students during the week of July 6-10. This trip serves as a reward for the hard work that the ecology students put into helping out in the environmental center. Students will go to Harrieta, Michigan and stay in a house owned by Doug Walman, the former ecology teacher who retired in 2008. There, they will get the chance to participate in various events such as hiking through the Manistee National Forest, rafting or canoeing, visiting Sleeping Bear Dunes, and many other activities. 20-25 students will be going to Michigan, including ecology teacher Emily Palmer, who is managing this whole project.

> "There wasn't a part of the work or trip that I didn't enjoy last year. It was an amazing experience and the highlight of my summer."
>
> **CHELSEA LOPEZ (12)**
> Program Participant

"I hope the students learn that working hard can be fun when surrounded by people with a common goal and positive attitude," Palmer said. "I hope that students will feel like they have contributed and become part of the strong student legacy behind the environmental center."

Walman originally started the work-study program in the environmental center for ecology students when he taught the class. Palmer hopes to continue to instill the same ideals of a strong work ethic and a love of nature in students.

"[Walman] had an inspiring vision to see students work hard and enjoy nature at the same time," Palmer said. "He succeeded in his vision. I know that I have big shoes to fill, but I share the same vision. I hope that [the students and I] can keep the vision going."

In ecology class, students are constantly doing what they can to lend a hand around the environmental center. This trip is an essential way to improve the environmental center while still learning new things as they work. Many students hope to learn critical lessons during the trip that can not only help the environment, but help the next generation of people live in a better one. A handful of students who have previously been on this trip are looking forward to another valuable learning experience.

"I would recommend this trip to anyone who is even remotely interested in it," Chelsea Lopez (12) said. "There wasn't a part of the work or trip that I didn't enjoy last year. It was an amazing experience and the highlight of my summer."

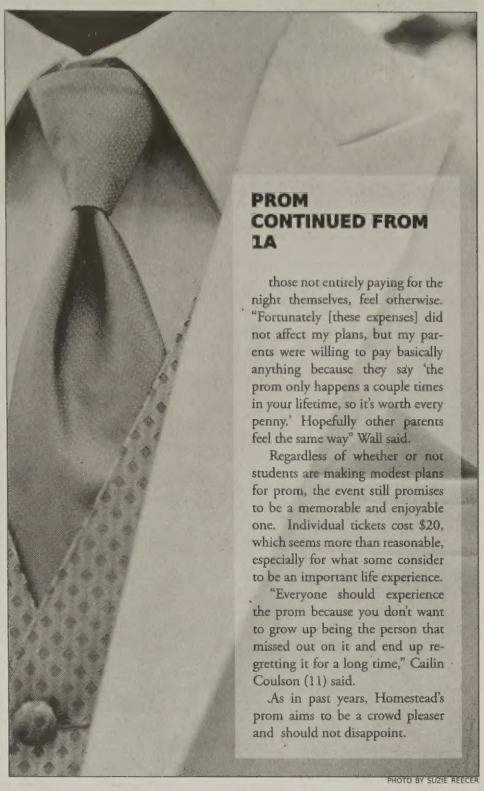


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

PROM CONTINUED FROM 1A

those not entirely paying for the night themselves, feel otherwise. "Fortunately [these expenses] did not affect my plans, but my parents were willing to pay basically anything because they say 'the prom only happens a couple times in your lifetime, so it's worth every penny.' Hopefully other parents feel the same way" Wall said.

Regardless of whether or not students are making modest plans for prom, the event still promises to be a memorable and enjoyable one. Individual tickets cost $20, which seems more than reasonable, especially for what some consider to be an important life experience.

"Everyone should experience the prom because you don't want to grow up being the person that missed out on it and end up regretting it for a long time," Cailin Coulson (11) said.

As in past years, Homestead's prom aims to be a crowd pleaser and should not disappoint.

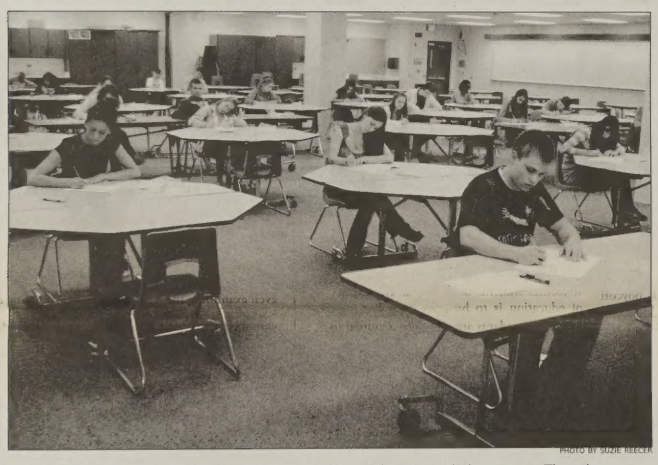


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Students begin to work on the free-response portion of the AP Psychology exam. The other section, a 70-minute multiple-choice test, was administered prior to a break allowed by the proctors.

AP CONTINUED FROM 1A

"I thought [the AP U.S. History exam] was pretty hard, but not as hard as I thought it was going to be," Michael Wendlandt (10) said.

To relieve stress, many students study to get as prepared as possible before a test. Some buy additional study materials, while others just study with what they have received in class.

"I felt a little stressed," Ridenour said. "I got an AP [U.S. History] book from Barnes and Noble. There was that, and I felt like I was cramming."

Students can go to such drastic measures as staying up into the early hours of the morning, or just study several hours during the day, but either way, they are usually stressed before a test.

"I didn't start stressing out until about two days before the AP test, because that wa when I really had to prepare," Andrew Yde (10) said.

In some cases, students opt to take an AP class, but not take the corresponding test, which some view as nonsensical because the class is centered around the test. However, even if one does not take the exam, the class is much more challenging.

"I didn't really know I wasn't going to take the test, but I took the AP class because I wanted to be challenged instead of just taking a normal class," Ethan Stillian (10) said.

After the AP test, students can gauge how well the class prepared them, based on their knowledge on the exam.

"The AP class prepared me well, mostly because of the AP U.S. History book that I outlined," Yde said.

While some think their class was very beneficial in their studies, others think that their class could have been improved slightly.

"I think that if we would have done note cards, then I would have been alot more prepared," Ridenour said.

Now that the AP tests are done, students have around three weeks to recover before finals, when many of the last minute crammers will end up staying awake studying until the wee hours of the morning yet again.

NEW FACES CONTINUED FROM 1A

dents like Brenneke suggests, it is equally important for Student Government members to act upon these voices, and bring concerns to the administration.

"I will definitely work on getting the administration to pay more attention to the students," Emamian said. "We've been having some problems with that lately. I am also definitely looking forward to the new ideas coming in from the middle schools. As a current freshman, I know what it feels like to want a voice heard in school, and I will try next year to pay attention to the freshman class."

One of the primary functions of student government is planning activities for the student body. Recently elected future sophomore class Vice President Halle Shine (9) has been involved in student government this year, and plans on continuing to strive for an even better year next year, despite the chaos that sometime ensues.

"We have to plan some dances, and I think that will be a bit of a challenge, only because it will probably be very hectic," Shine said. "Keeping the budget for the dances will also be hard. I am excited for the bigger responsibilities we have. There will be a lot more in store for us."

As the board members are anticipating change for the upcoming year, this will not come without a set of obstacles, including the lurking issue of the school's financial hardship.

"This year in Student Government, things have gone really well," Brenneke said. "All of our events have been outstanding, and involvement from each member has really contributed to making this a great year. But I am most ready to deal with money problems next year, as I expect it will be one of the largest hardships I will have to face. In a receding economy, we are taking a hit from a lack of spending. It has been hard to balance a budget this year."

While the newly elected Student Government officials might have some obstacles in their way, they are excited and optimistic about the prospects that lie ahead with the coming of a new school year.

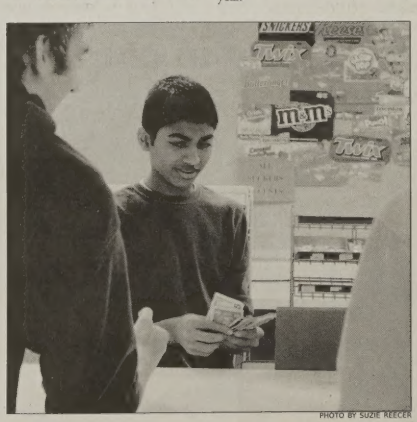


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Anuj Khemka (10) hands back change while selling candy at the Student Government-run backroom. Khemka will assume the role of Junior Class President next school year.

SPARTAN CONTINUED FROM 1A

tan attire portion of the night. The men will dress in what they think best reflects the idea of what Mr. Spartan is. After this, the group will be eliminated to ten men. These remaining ten contestants will then showcase whatever talent they might have in a two minute interval during the talent portion of the competition. The men will then compete in an evening wear competition that is to include high heals for all of the contestants.

After five more contestants are eliminated, the final five will be judged on their responses to questions asked of them. After the scores are tallied, the first, second and third place winners will then be announced.

"[Mr. Spartan] is a pageant for guys where they're trying to be comical and show their true colors," pageant organizer Nicole Szoko (12) said. "In addition to raising money for the school, I think it will be something really fun and laid back that's a good way to end the school year."

The student government-sponsored activity is already generating a buzz, and few are more excited than the spirited contestants themselves.

"I'm doing Mr. Spartan because it seemed like a fun and exciting new thing, and as a senior, I wanted to do something as a last hurrah," contestant Aaron Clark (12) said. "I think I'm funny and I think I have school spirit. And I enjoy Homestead probably more than any other place in the world. I'm looking forward to wearing a dress and high heals too, because this kid can strut his stuff in high heels."

Judged by three teachers or administrators, the competition already has some of the contestants preparing for what seems more like a battle of the Spartans of ancient Greece rather than a high school beauty contest.

"I think I have what it takes," contestant Nate Ferrise (12) said. "I hope to leave it up to the gods. I'll pray a lot, slaughter many goats. For my talent, I want to incorporate a back flip off a wall, playing a drum set, singing a crazy song, and then doing something else amazing."

While some are just going for the glory, other contestants have more philanthropic aspirations of what to do should they win the crown.

"I think if I'm crowned Mr. Spartan, I could do a lot of good for the school, and the community, and the world," contestant Mac Finley (12) said.

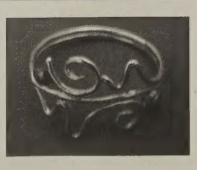
But whatever the reason for entering, and whatever the reason for coming, the Mr. Spartan pageant seems like it's going to be an excellent new tradition of entertainment at Homestead.

"I hope Mr. Spartan goes over as a success, and I hope everyone comes out and sees it," Clark said.

Will all of these guys be able to pull off showing their beauty, poise and class in front of their entire school? Based on the current buzz, everyone at the Mr. Spartan pageant should have a good time watching them try.

REWARD FOR LOST RINGS

Collette Spears (12) left two rings in the women's restroom by the auxilary gym. One is pictured to the right, and the other contains hearts in the band. A $30 reward will go to anyone that returns the rings to Spears. Contact Spears at 705-7401.



$30 | 705-7401

OPINION

Ed board considers effect of gambling on downtown reputation, 3a

page 3a
issue 16 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Casino in Fort Wayne

Notre Dame Controversy

Mr. Spartan Contest

Friday, May 15, 2009

LEFT AND WRITE | Obama at Notre Dame Commencement

Debate a matter of faith, devotion

BY MARY DISTLER
WRITER

Most people do not understand the underlying reason why Catholics and Notre Dame alumni are upset about Notre Dame having President Obama at this year's graduation ceremony. It is not as much a partisan debate as it is a commentary on how loosely people are taking their faith.

Any Catholic knows the major teaching that all life, including children in the womb, is sacred. Obama has attacked the belief by reinstating funding on oversea abortions and abortions in the third term of pregnancy.

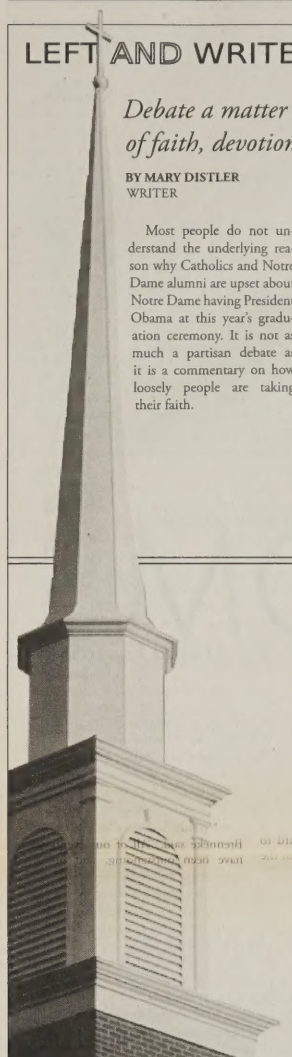
Fr. John Jenkins, President of Notre Dame, should be combining higher education and the Catholic teachings on campus. By honoring Obama with a degree, he is sending unclear messages about Catholic beliefs.

In 2004, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requested that "Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles," and that such persons "should not be given awards, honors and platforms which would suggest support for their actions." Jenkins is in defiance of this guideline by having Obama.

Obama receiving an award is causing controversies among alumni and students. The university has hesitant alumni planning to redirect over $8 million to other charities. Equally concerning, eager graduates and families are now forced to support an opposing view at the graduation.

It is unfortunate that even those governing religious institutions seem to loosely value their own faith's teachings. As Yale Law Professor Mary Ann Glendon, winner of the prestigious Laetare Medal for her work to advance the Catholic faith, explained, "Other Catholic schools are similarly choosing to disregard the bishops' guidelines, and I am concerned that Notre Dame's example could have an unfortunate ripple effect."

Until leaders of faith institutions practice their beliefs, there is little hope for society to build stronger moral foundations.



the DEFIANT IRISH

Hypocritical bishop must follow his own principles

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
ISSUE OPINION EDITOR

Bishop John D'Arcy has initiated numerous admirable charitable programs in Fort Wayne, but while he is well within his rights to vocalize displeasure with Barack Obama delivering Notre Dame's commencement address, his ethics in doing so are questionable.

D'Arcy has stated that he will boycott Obama's commencement address due to his policies on stem cell research and abortion. He fails to realize that Obama's invitation has not been extended to convert students, but rather to speak about the value of an education and importance of pursuing dreams. Obama has an incredibly valuable rags-to-riches story to share, and he should be welcomed to tell it. Graduates should be benefited by commencement, not deprived of a momentous opportunity by another person's prejudice that they very well may not reflect.

D'Arcy protests Obama because he endorses a woman's right to control her own body, but has previously welcomed George W. Bush to Notre Dame, a man who allowed a tragic 131 executions during his five-year term as the governor of Texas. This inequality shows that D'Arcy's initiative is clearly political, not moral. Whatever one's beliefs regarding abortion, shouldn't the commandment "thou shalt not kill" be reciprocal?

While Notre Dame is indeed a Catholic university, its admissions policy states that it welcomes students of all faiths. The essence of education is to broaden one's horizons, and while students are in no way required to agree with Obama, D'Arcy is doing no more than suggesting a trend stalwart to intolerance. The commencement speech will serve to enlighten students about the value of education, not to change their political ideology. As a member of a religion that preaches tolerance, D'Arcy needs to follow his own doctrine and "love thy neighbor," lest he paint himself more hypocritically in the future.

Ed board: Gaming could imperil downtown image

Cotton candy-toting toddlers dashing down Ewing St. while their empty stroller-pushing fathers chase after them. Radio stations pitching impromptu event tents on Jefferson Blvd. Families anxious to inaugurate box suites filing reservations for their children's birthday parties. This could easily be the synopsis for the promotional video shown to Harrison Square investors, but it is instead a new reality. The recent opening of Parkview Field has authenticated these former fantasies of downtown development, temporarily hushing critics of the ambitious project. Suddenly, watching minor league baseball is about as cool as bashing its very existence used to be.

The euphoria surrounding the new stadium and its occupant team, however, only sidesteps the city's other conflicted aspirations. Yes, Fort Wayne has a gambling problem — one of whether to endorse the disputed pastime or not.

Citing a casino's ability to ease the city's budget shortfall, Mayor Tom Henry has expressed his support for the venture. Proponents trumpet the employment potential of such an undertaking, while critics snarl about the usual dangers bred by gambling, such as various forms of substance abuse and poverty. Neither side's arguments, however, dare to delve deeper than these conventional deductions. One thing is certain: without even examining the legislative hurdles, building a casino in Fort Wayne is an apparent risk. Upholding the city's urban identity, on the other hand, illuminates the debate in a whole new light.

In fact, casinos are often erected in metropolitan areas where city leaders can afford to alienate the demographics excluded from participation. Fort Wayne, an undeclared epicenter for periodically mawkish family entertainment, is not one of those locations. Although a gaming complex would generate revenue throughout all four seasons, its clientele is derived from a group inferior in magnitude to any Saturday night TinCaps audience. This conundrum is obviously at the root of the debate; is it a wiser strategy to funnel business dollars into a multi-seasonal, age-restrictive cause or preserve universal attractions that may not offer year-round hours?

Whatever the verdict may be, this city ain't big enough for the two of them.

Mr. Spartan contest pushes sexist agenda

Student government competition is disgrace to both beauty pageants, opposite gender

BY YOGESH JONNA
WRITER

Today a male beauty pageant, tomorrow a male dance team; the male-dominated world never ceases to flex its arm against the empowerment of the opposite gender. The sexist Mr. Spartan contest secretly erodes away the rights and opportunities provided to female students while being mistaken as a good laugh.

Foremost, the pageant specifically mocks the feminine appearance. High heels, stilettos and block heels all define one of the most fashionable, strictly feminine attire. Whether it is for beauty pageants, fashion shows or every day use, women are known to have an expansive selection of footwear from which to choose. In having male students not only dress up, but wear high heels, the Mr. Spartan Contest is an offense to both females and the institution of a beauty pageant.

The Miss America Pageant started the trend of modern beauty pageants in the 1920s, a time of great feminine power in politics, including a feminine-endorsed 18th Amendment that instituted a prohibition. However, the beauty pageant judges both the morals and background of women. It is an esteemed institution that has become a classic American program for a competitive judgment of nobility. Instead, the Mr. Spartan contest turns the institution into a sort of hour long roast on Comedy Central — except it is a roast of not an individual but the entire female gender.

> "The sexist Mr. Spartan contest secretly erodes away the rights and opportunities provided to female students while being mistaken as a good laugh."
>
> **YOGESH JONNA**
> Writer

In the 1970s, the Department of Education finally instituted liberal change for gender equality in schools. Even though the playing field has been leveled to include the same number of male and female sports, the male-dominated world is apparent in the extraordinarily higher comparative attendance of male athletic events. While women struggle to receive any attention or recognition for their athletic prowess, the school allows their mockery by shamelessly smug members of the opposite sex.

In order for society to fix the thousands of years of female oppression, more opportunities need to be provided for women in school events than for men. Affirmative action has been accepted as a way to help the minority; similarly, it needs to be extended to include minorities of power, a category under which all women fall. Women have suffered far longer than any other race or religion to the selfish and proud male race. The Mr. Spartan competition is just the first step in the wrong direction. That time and effort instead should be put into creating more programs for females, like a Miss Spartan contest, and expansion of female club sports. Ironically, an institution started for women, begins in this high school featuring the opposite sex.

MAYORAL STANCE

In an interview with The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne mayor Tom Henry stated that although casino licenses are not state lawmakers' top priority, the debate is still worthy of discussion. He deemed any progress toward gambling in Fort Wayne as "a tough sell" this year.

PHOTO WWW.TOMHENRYFORMAYOR.COM

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

ISSUE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

ISSUE NEWS EDITORS
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
STEPHANIE PONTON

ISSUE OPINION EDITOR
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

ISSUE SPORTS EDITOR
JOE HANAUER

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHARLES WALTER

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
EMILY CHASE
MARY DISTLER
ALEX FUTTER
KARA HACKETT
NICOLE IVANOVIC
YOGESH JONNA
CAM KAMINSKI
MAT MIKESELL
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
CHRIS RAY
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS

This issue was produced by the underclassmen of the Spartana staff with the assistance of senior staff members and editors to prepare the returning students for creating the newspaper next fall.

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

Tom Maher displays U.S. history through childhood memories, 5a

page 4a
issue 16 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Restaurant Review

Verizon Music Center

Tom Maher

Friday, May 15, 2009

BIAGGIS RISTORANTE ITALIANO

PHOTO BY AREZOO NAZARI

BY MARY DISTLER
WRITER

There are two words to describe Flat Top Grill as an option for a pre-Prom dinner: great and cheap. The uplifting atmosphere keeps spirits high and a friendly staff puts customers in a good mood to party. The buffet offers wide varieties of rice, fresh vegetables, sauces and meats that one selects prior to advising the chef how he or she would like it prepared. The choices range from traditional stir fry to lettuce wraps with many options in between. The only catch is that the customer must create the combinations which determine if the meal is appetizing or not.

Assistant Manager Dave Clayton shared that the restaurant has some special packages that appeal to prom goers. When a group makes reservations with the manager ahead of time, they can enjoy unlimited food and a drink for just $13.99 per person. That is a delicious dinner of fresh food for two for under $30. With school IDs, rates can be reduced even more.

Jefferson Pointe's Flat Top Grill usually fills up quickly with prom attendees, so be sure to make reservations ahead of time.

BY CAM KAMINSKI
WRITER

While not being the most easily located or well known seafood restaurant in Fort Wayne, Paula's Seafood Restaurant and Market, located on W. Main Street, provides a rewarding experience for those who take the time to drive downtown.

After parking in the gravel lot out back, customers are greeted with display cases full of fresh salmon, shrimp and crab on ice and the sizzling of fish amongst the ambience of an often filled up restaurant. Reservations are recommended; large parties often occupy the top floor on weekends, and occasionally a small acoustic band will play in a corner of the restaurant. As a result of the noise level, Paula's is not the best location for an intimate one-on-one date; rather, a group date or small party would be more fitting.

Guests are seated very promptly, given they have a reservation. Appetizers and drinks come swiftly upon ordering. Soups and salads are around $5, while other entrées, such as the shrimp cocktail and clam chowder, cost about $10.

Paula's is not exclusively a seafood restaurant, however; many of the main entrées include a selection of fine cut meats, including filet mignon and rib-eye steak. After appetizers are served, a bread basket is put on the table to stave off additional hunger while the main entrées are being prepared. General waiting time is about 20 minutes, but the restaurant offers a nice street view as well as many paintings on the walls to help pass the time.

The filet mignon is expertly cooked and tender, overthrowing many meals other restaurants around Fort Wayne have to offer. The bread basket is warm and lightly seasoned and the seafood is seared properly. Paula's has a casual and friendly atmosphere and is certainly worth the price.

the Spartana's PROM restaurant review 2009

With all the chaos of planning the perfect Prom night, it's possible to have overlooked one important detail: dinner reservations. Do not fret, it is not too late to have the perfect meal to begin your evening. Getting a last-minute reservation may be difficult, but there is always the option of dining at home. To help in the search, the Spartana has taken the liberty of dining out ahead of time to rate and review local restaurants of various cultures. All are moderate in price, accommodate large groups and in close proximity to the Grand Wayne Center.

Biaggis Ristorante Italiano
4010 W. Jefferson Boulevard 459-6700 - 11 minutes, 8.08 miles
Sakura Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar
5828 W. Jefferson Boulevard 459-2022 - 10 minutes, 7.06 miles
Flat Top Grill
4140 W. Jefferson Boulevard 432-4100 - 10 minutes, 7.98 miles
Paula's Seafood
1732 W. Main Street 422-4322 - 15 minutes, 9.79 miles
Don Chava's Mexican Grill
1234 N. Wells Street 423-6677 - 19 minutes, 11.57 miles
TIMES AND DISTANCES ARE MEASURED FROM HOMESTEAD

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

Walking into the doors of this picturesque restaurant is like being sent into the heart of Mexico for a traditional meal, all done without the hassles of a plane flight and language barriers. Complete with mariachi music, intricately decorated chairs and tables, unique figurines, mesmerizing paintings on the walls and a Spanish-speaking staff, Don Chava's truly transports customers into the foreign and culturally rich country of Mexico.

For students looking to practice their Spanish before prom and impress their dates with their bilingual abilities, the waiters are more than happy to take orders in Spanish. If one is not quite knowledgeable as to what assortment of Mexican dishes can be tastefully combined with the sides, the waiters are well equipped with favorable suggestions.

Don Chava's menu consists of all of the traditional spicy and hot Mexican dishes. Among recommendable meals are the carne asada and the chiles rellenos. The carne asada consists of juicy pieces of beef with a side of cheesy beans, Mexican red rice and a variety of vegetables in order to form tacos if desired. For those customers that are willing to take on the hot and extremely spicy characteristics of Mexican food, the chile rellenos are perfect. Consisting of peppers stuffed with cheese and cooked in an outer layer of egg whites, the dish is a customary Mexican meal, served with the same side dishes as the carne asada. To top it all off and complete a savory meal are the tortillas made right in Don Chava's tortilleria.

Upon the completion of a classic Mexican meal, customers can bask in their enjoyable experience as they recollect the friendly service, piquant atmosphere and delectable food all under the affordable price of $15. As prom attendees leave Don Chava's with the Latin spirit alive in their festive moods, they will be ready to dance away.

BY AREZOO NAZARI
WRITER

For couples looking for an elegant, laid back environment, Biaggis offers just that. With appetizers ranging from $7 to $17, the restaurant provides various pastas, seafood and grilled specialties. If one is looking for a light pasta dish, the spaghetti marinara is a recommended entrée. However, the heavy creams and delicious tastes of the farfalle alfredo and chicken cannelloni are other options if one is not worried about fattening ingredients. The traditional chicken and eggplant parmesans are always a safe option if one is uncertain about what they want to order. If someone prefers food that is grilled rather than fried, the chicken marsala will be a pleasant choice for those who like the taste of caramelized onions and sautéed mushrooms. However, if one is looking for a more classic Italian dish, the chicken marsala has an unusual taste that most may not be too fond of. Entrée prices range from $10 to $23.

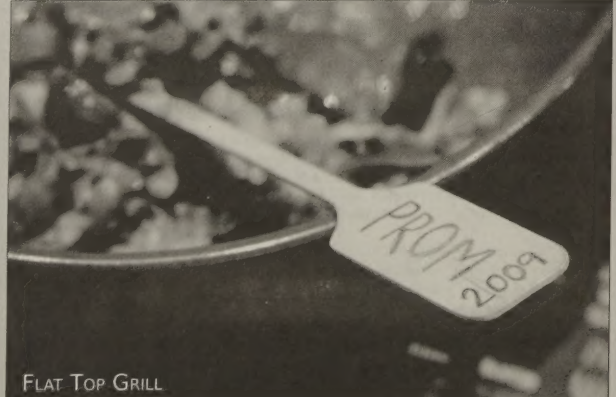
If a party wants more of an informal dinner, Biaggis also offers pizza, which is freshly prepared with handmade dough. If one is looking for a vegetarian dish, the mediterranean pizza or the margherita pizza is the way to go. On the other hand, if one is more interested in meat, the sausage and pepperoni pizzas are also tasty. The price of pizza is lower than a majority of the entrées, at $10.

To top off the meal, a tirami su is highly suggested. There are a variety of cakes, puddings and ice creams that are also available. However, one does not have to worry much about the prices of desserts because all of the dishes are $5.99.

Reservations can be booked several months in advance. In previous years, weekends in May have always been busy with prom parties. The restaurant has designated tables for large groups of 12 to 15 people. Biaggis is already expecting to accommodate 15 to 20 prom parties from various schools tomorrow night. This year, the number of reservations continues to soar, which is no surprise to the employees.

SAKURA JAPANESE RESTAURANT & SUSHI BAR

PHOTO BY NICOLE IVANOVIC



FLAT TOP GRILL

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

For a unique spin on a pre-prom restaurant, Sakura Japan is the place to go. In the restaurant, you are submerged in a Japanese atmosphere, complete with bamboo and decorations. There is a room where guests with special reservations can sit to experience a traditional Japanese dining atmosphere, including sitting on the floor. "If large groups, like [groups of] prom students, make reservations, we will normally seat them in the special room to give them the full experience," Michael Tam, Sakura Japan host, said.

The menu at Sakura offers a full range of foods offered in Japan, including sushi and tempura. The dinners are affordable for families that want to try Japanese cuisine.

The prices at Sakura Japan attract a wide variety of people since most of the entrees are less than fifteen dollars. To start out, an authentic appetizer is the tempura. Tempura is an assortment of vegetables and meats lightly fried in a special batter. An entrée for two is the bento box, which is a sampling of rice, meat, sushi, steamed vegetables and a sauce. The bento box comes in a type of lunch tray, with different compartments for the different foods. If one orders enough sushi for four to five people, the food comes in a wooden boat. The hibachi chicken or steak is a good starter meal for those that are new to Japanese flavors. The meat is tossed in a flavorful but light sauce. With the entrees come soup, salad and rice, which all give you a light experience of how the foods in Japan taste.

With fast service and an affordable menu, the experience at Sakura Japan is a memorable way to start any special evening. Sakura Japan should be number one on your list of places to eat before prom.

Loss of faith puts America on verge of atheist nation

BY KARA HACKETT
NEWS EDITOR

I am about to commit the most reprehensible sin in our society. I might make you question your beliefs or, even worse, consider that truth is not a relative concept. When confronted with ideas that differ from our own, members of our generation fall victim to the self-established illusion that we are never wrong. Therefore, when divisive topics arise in our discussions, we take drastic measures: defending our immature philosophies or avoiding the situation completely. I have always been a rather avid fan of the latter response. Life is much easier when we can all just agree to disagree.

Yet, I was recently confronted with a dilemma I found too disturbing to dismiss absentmindedly: before long, America will become an atheist nation.

My notions were confirmed in a study conducted by NBC News entitled "Losing Faith." However, even more disconcerting than the article itself were the comments posted by viewers around the nation who praised their fellow Americans for accepting what they called a reality free "from the shackles of intellectual bondage." While some viewers compared God to fictional characters, calling the Bible "a child's fairy tale," others claimed a belief in something called the "Invisible Pink Unicorn," reinforcing the idea that in our culture, anything an individual believes—no matter how ridiculous—is true if he believes it to be so.

One common denominator I noticed among all the commentaries was an incredible number of misspellings. Obviously these highly intellectual masterminds who know enough to fervently discount organized religion do not know how to use spell-check. Nevertheless, these ignorant bloggers made me realize the extent of our nation's atheist crusade, which I immediately determined was the direct result of an increased reliance on science. Therefore, like any good journalist, I decided to confront a reliable source who could accurately illuminate the realm of scientific thought: Albert Einstein. Yet, rather than validating the arguments of my atheist counterparts, he surprisingly echoed a dissension similar to my own.

"The fanatical atheists are like slaves who are still feeling the weight of their chains which they have thrown off after hard struggle," Einstein said. "They are creatures who—in their grudge against traditional religion as the 'opium of the masses'—cannot hear the music of the spheres."

Although he was not a devout Christian or a faithful Jew, Einstein understood that there was an undeniable link between faith and science—two entities not only separate, but also prone to opposition in modern thought. For some reason, we have come to believe that in support of one of these "spheres," we must inevitably deny the other. However, in Einstein's mind, this was not the case.

While we define religion and science as two separate "spheres," his theory on these bodies of thought looked somewhat like those irritating Venn diagrams your math teachers give you when they are required to assign writing projects. Although there are separate characteristics of each sphere that do not and cannot overlap, there are also similarities between the two. Therefore, fighting to preserve one of these "spheres" does not invalidate the other. By doing so, we are only limiting our own knowledge, making ourselves the illiterate authors of truth and the mindless masters of morality.

If Einstein addressed the entities of science and religion with equal deliberation, then why does our nation cling to one of his theories while ignoring the other? Perhaps it is because religion is often enigmatic. That's why it's called faith after all; we must believe without verification or corroboration. For had we tangible, evidential support, we would call it fact, and if religion was a collection of compiled facts, it would not require the virtues that define its value.

Even Einstein was comfortable admitting that "behind all the discernible laws and connections, there remains something subtle, intangible and inexplicable." However, our society demands physical proof. Where we find room for interpretation, we make room for misinterpretation, labeling faith as fallacy. Yet, occasionally, events occur in a pattern far too ironic to be the work of mere coincidence. Call it fate or call it divine intervention; it's the symphony of the spheres.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

The Dave Matthews Band, which performed last year at the Verizon Wireless Music Center just north of Indianapolis in Noblesville, will return for a two-day, 2009 Summer World Tour stop at the outdoor amphitheater on July 31 and Aug. 1.

Indianapolis' outdoor ampitheather, Verizon Wireless Music Center, hosts variety of musical acts all summer long with relaxed atmosphere

BY NICOLE IVANOVIC
WRITER

Friends, music and good vibes are all feelings expressed at the Verizon Wireless Music Center. An outdoor venue with 600 covered seats and 18000 lawn seats; it is the premier place for summer concerts in Indiana. The Verizon Center is known for its mainstream concerts including John Mayer, Coldplay, Nickleback, and Dave Matthews. With these exciting shows, this year Live Nation, the owner of the Verizon Wireless Music Center, is hoping to have a great season.

"Last year we had a fabulous turnout, and the ticket sales were up, and this year they seem to be selling steadily. We released the concert schedule earlier this year than in the past, so tickets are still available," Melody Bedford, Live Nation representative, said.

The Verizon concert venue is a great place for people to relax. The outdoor amphitheater presents a relaxed atmosphere, where many people enjoy walking around and listening to music.

"It has a great atmosphere, is a great place for friends to hang out, has a good vibe and is a great venue for concerts. I go there at least once a year," Brady Gerber (10), said.

As an outdoor venue, it presents a perfect summer time hangout for all ages. Before the concerts, people often come early and have "tailgating parties" in the parking lot, and more than often someone pulls out a guitar and starts to strum away.

"It isn't a very intimate venue, but the atmosphere presents a really neat experience to relax and walk around. Being able to walk around at a concert gives the audience freedom and makes the concert less intimate," Howard Jankowski, English teacher, said.

When the doors open, finding a good spot to sit is the first order of business, once you have a spot claimed, or have found your seat, getting a bite to eat is tempting, and along the way, friends often are found. Then, the attendee is free to walk around and enjoy the music. In the summer, most night's present perfect weather, but on some occasions the weather can add to the outdoor concert experience.

"Once I went and there was a tornado four or five miles away, and it was storming. To get to the parking lot, you have to cross a bridge and while it was pouring, there were thousands of people trying to cross this bridge to get to their cars. It was hectic and scary, but definitely one of the most memorable experiences," Jankowski, said.

Compared to other venues like the Lawn at White River State Park and Millennium Park, Verizon is known for its size and the types of concerts that it holds. The Lawn at White River Park is smaller, while Millennium Park, in Chicago, is exceedingly larger. For Indiana, it seems that the Verizon Center is just the right size, being one of the only outdoor concert venues for popular mainstream artists in central Indiana. For more intimate concerts, The Egyptian Room at the Murat presents more of a traditional type of concert.

This summer, the schedule at the Verizon Wireless Music Center is full of a mix of mainstream artists that is sure to meet anyone's taste. Listening to music, relaxing and enjoying the summer weather are all provided when attending a concert at the Verizon Wireless Music Center.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Saturday, May 30 7:30 p.m.	Nine Inch Nails with Jane's Addiction
Friday, June 5 7:30 p.m.	Coldplay with Snow Patrol
Saturday, June 6 8:00 p.m.	Rascal Flatts with Darius Rucker
Sunday, June 28 7:30 p.m.	New Kids on the Block
Friday, July 10 8:00 p.m.	No Doubt With Paramore
Saturday, July 11 6:30 p.m.	Kid Rock with Lynyrd Synyrd
Friday, July 31 Saturday, August 1 7:30 p.m.	Dave Matthews Band with Hill Country Revue
Saturday, August 15 6:00 p.m.	Nickleback with Hinder, Papa Roach, Saving Abel

Where is Verizon Music Center?

Take I-69 South to exit 10 towards Noblesville. Merge onto Greenfield Ave. Turn right onto Bolden Road. Turn right onto E 146th St. Time: 1 hr 30 min Distance: 100 miles

Coldplay along with Chris Martin will be at Verizon this summmer.

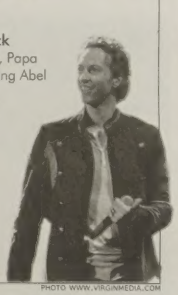


PHOTO WWW.VIRGINMEDIA.COM

History teacher reminisces on growing up in Big Apple

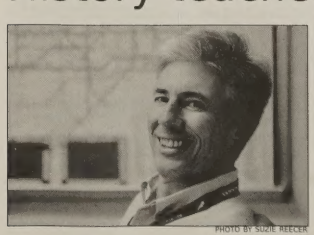


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

U.S. History teacher Mr. Maher is the department chair and teaches four classes a day.

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

New York's population is far too dense for its residents not to know someone who knows someone who is well known, or is related to someone well known. This explains why U.S. History teacher Tom Maher grew up in the same building as Jay Leno's grandmother and uncle. And why some of his neighbors were Harvard and West Point graduates and some were involved in the mafia.

Maher grew up in a suburb just outside of New York City. Commuters lived in the suburbs and Maher's "dad and everyone else's dad got up … and they got on the train and went to Grand Central and went off to their offices." His father was a jack of all trades, being a "journalist, author and also a good cartoonist and quite a decent painter as well," according to Maher.

Maher's mother is from London. The New York apartment building he grew up in allowed him to be surrounded by a variety of people. Growing up in such a culturally diverse environment is where he learned tolerance.

"[In Fort Wayne there is] a more homogenous culture, whereas I grew up with a great deal of diversity, so you just heard different things," Maher said.

Maher attended his freshman year of college in the Bronx at Fordham University. For his sophomore, junior and senior years of college he moved south to New Orleans and attended Loyola University.

"New Orleans has a distinct culture because there are so many different influences. There's the French influence, the African influence, the Native American influence and I think that so much of it comes out in the music," Maher said. "I think that the culture of New Orleans is what makes it special, unfortunately, I'm not sure that after Katrina it's ever going to be the same place again."

Maher grew up during a period of time that was full of change and conflict. He was young when the Vietnam protests were in full swing. Despite his young age he vividly remembers marches past his apartment.

"There were people from my apartment building marching with the protesters and I remember some of the veterans from World War II and the Korean War who were out there screaming at these guys and threatening them, 'you wait until I see you later,'" Maher said.

This is an example of the experiences that Maher is able to share with his students. The stories that he tells his students might be exaggerated slightly, but he learned how to tell stories from people he grew up with.

"Everybody I grew up with were natural storytellers, probably because we were all trying to talk our way out of something, trying to explain ourselves to a teacher or a cop or somebody, so you had to be quick on your feet," Maher said.

The people that Maher listened to most often as he was growing up were his father and his father's friends.

"When I heard them talk it was always about ideas; it was about art, philosophy, about literature," Maher said.

His father is one of the reasons he became a teacher, because his father introduced him to art and literature at a very young age.

Maher sees history as a story. He knows that not everyone is interested in the subject he teaches, but he does believe that "the problem quite often is not history; history is great. The problem is school."

A CITY APART

1. It is 654.35 miles from Fort Wayne.
2. The population is 8,274,527.
3. There are more than 350 Starbucks.
4. 47 million tourists visited in 2008.

SPORTS

Undefeated softball team settles into first place in state rankings, 7a

page 6a
issue 16 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Boys' Track and Field

Jon Finley

Girls' Tennis

Friday, May 15, 2009

RAINY DAZE

According to The Weather Channel, the average amount of precipitation for the month of April is 3.54 inches.

The total amount of precipitation recorded for April 2009 was 6.91 inches, nearly double the average.

Only 16 days from the entire month were precipitation free.

Statistically, Sundays were the rainiest days, with an average precipitation of .85 inches.

The record rainfall was reset this year on Sunday, April 5th. The record was raised to 1.77 inches from he previous record of 1.18 inches in 1958.

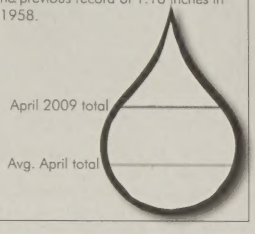


PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Spring sports teams struggle to work in games, practices with large number of cancellations due to rain

BY JOE HANAUER
ISSUE SPORTS EDITOR

Over the last three weeks, 36 sporting events have been canceled for the same reason. Not only has this mysterious game-ending force ruined the nights of athletes for the last few weeks, but it has halted team practices and forced Joe Updegrove into a rescheduling mayhem. What is this unstoppable force you may ask? It is rain.

Athletes around the school sat in their desks speechless and with open ears, listening to the dreadful end of the day announcements, knowing that their event was more than likely going to be canceled after a rainy day. After a full day of excitement waiting for their game or match, the anxiety was sucked out of them almost immediately. Shortly following, they found out that more than likely, their practice would be indoors that night. Baseball and softball players seem to have different views about indoor practices, but both feel the same frustration of not being able to be outside.

"The rainouts frustrate us a lot, but we keep a positive frame of mind that we're going to play no matter what," Stryker Salyer (12) said.

The biggest difference between practicing inside and practicing outside is not having enough room. This isn't much of a problem for the tennis teams, seeing as tennis can also be considered an indoor sport. Teams compromise by focusing on one particular aspect of the game and using the fact that they are inside to the best of their abilities.

"We hit more when we practice inside, so if anything it improves our ability in hitting," Mallory Harber (12) said.

In general, rainouts can take away from a team's performance, and make games or matches challenging when players can't get in a groove.

"Rainouts haven't really affected our team's ability, but they do make it frustrating when we can't be outside for a week," Harber said.

When looking at the record of the spring sports teams, it's hard to say if rainouts have had any effect at all. With the softball and track teams still undefeated, the baseball team with one loss, the tennis team undefeated in conference play, and the golf team on the rise, some might wonder if they may have even helped the teams' performance.

Different sports have different criteria for having a game cancelled or postponed. Sports like track are able to compete in rain, but most stop once lightning has been seen or thunder has been heard. On the other hand, tennis matches are almost immediately cancelled once it starts to rain because of hazardous conditions on the court. Baseball and softball have a similar rule of thumb; once the field starts to look "shiny," or puddles start showing up on the dirt, games are ruled unplayable. Every time lightning is seen, games must be halted for 30 minutes.

Even though the rain caused a slow start to this season, it hasn't prevented any of the spring sports teams from competing to their highest ability. The forecast for the next few weeks calls for better weather. We can all hope for sunny days, warm nights and clear skies as the spring sports teams finish up their seasons.

Above: The boys' baseball team awaits the decision of whether their game will be canceled or delayed because of rain.

Underclassman, under par

Jon Finley (10) addresses his return to golf for second varsity season

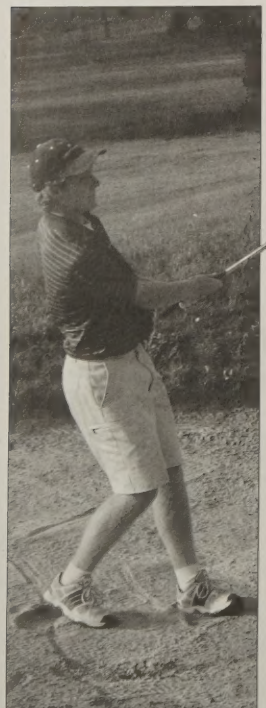


PHOTO BY DEREK LUTTRELL

Stuck in a sand trap during practice at Orchard Ridge Country Club, varsity golfer Jon Finley (10) uses his iron to forage out of the hazard and onto the green. The sophmore is the youngest golfer on the varsity team this season.

UPCOMING MATCHES

Tuesday, May 19 vs. New Haven

Saturday, May 23 vs. Columbia City

Wednesday, May 27 vs. Leo

Thursday, May 28 vs. Dwenger

After being the only freshman to play on the boys' varsity golf team last year, Jon Finley (10) returns to the lineup this season. He will be the only returning varsity golfer next year, and knows that he will be eventually be carrying the weight of the team on his shoulders.

Spartana: How do you think your season is going so far?

Finley: We haven't performed the way we've wanted, but state is definitely in our reach if we perform to our standards. I have been playing fairly solid; had my ups and downs, but by the end of the season I should be at my peak.

Spartana: What were your goals coming into the season?

Finley: I wanted to solidify a good varsity spot and have a solid season. I knew with the transfer of Michael Jenkins (12) to this school we would have a good run at state and I'm hoping we do.

Spartana: What have you learned from the seniors this year?

Finley: I have learned a bit more on the leadership role and what I have to get done next year. They are very helpful with my physical and mental game on the course.

Spartana: Does the team do anything special before a match?

Finley: No, but I think we should all do team stretches and do some mental activities before we go out for our match.

Spartana: How does Orchard Ridge compare to other courses you play on?

Finley: Orchard is without a doubt much better than any other course we play. It is maintained very well and the penalties are much greater for not keeping your ball in play.

Spartana: What's been the biggest difference for you this year as opposed to last year?

Finley: I am a much more consistent player and I have become more of a leader on the team.

Spartana: What is the most memorable moment of the season so far?

Finley: When Jenkins put all of Tanner Macy's (9) clubs inside out in his golf bag. He got very angry and made threats but he later realized it was just freshman initiation.

Spartana: What is it like knowing you may be the only returning varsity golfer?

Finley: It is sad knowing that everybody is leaving me, but I am excited to have the leadership role as a junior. We will still have a solid team next year, but the loss of the rest of the varsity team is a big hit.

Spartana: Who has made the biggest impact on your golf game this year?

Finley: Well, my dad is definitely the biggest factor in my game. But on the team, all of the seniors have helped my mental game tremendously and have made this year fun.

Spartana: What does the team do to bond?

Finley: We have team dinners and play with each other quite often on weekends. Knowing your teammates well is definitely a benefit to making a better team. We are comfortable with questioning and helping each other during practices, which is important to help build our games.

Spartana: How do you feel about next year's season?

Finley: It will definitely be a building season with the loss of the rest of the varsity team. I have had a great experience being a part of this varsity team and I will use that experience to help better all the new underclassmen players stepping into the leadership roles next year.

Girls' tennis players strive for sectionals

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

With spring in full swing, the girls' varsity tennis teams looks to emulate the success of years past with the postseason soon approaching. This year, number one singles player Jade Johnson (12) is leading the way, with her sister Macy Johnson (9) right behind her in the number two singles spot.

After playing only a few matches due to rain, the season is finally getting going with some good weather. The team defeated Dekalb 4-1 last Thursday, with the Johnson sisters leading the way in dominating style. Dekalb is not the only conference foe the team has beaten; so far, the team has gone undefeated in conference play.

"It's a good feeling to know we're undefeated in conference. We have a solid team and we have the potential to go to state as a team, which would be awesome," Kate Bienz (12) said.

Apart from conference play, invitationals have also gone well for the team. At the Concord Invitational, the team placed second, ahead of arch-rival Canterbury, who placed third.

"It felt so good placing ahead of Canterbury at the Concord Invitational. It is good to know that we will have a good chance of winning sectionals this year," Macy said.

Jade and her sister have formed the team's effective one-two punch this year, with Jade losing only two matches so far to state-ranked opponents.

"It's so nice to have my sister on the team; I love having her play right beside me," Jade said. "The girl who beat me at state last year (Courtney Wild) beat me again this year in a really close match."

This week, the team had a match every day against three conference opponents and two non-conference teams. Tomorrow, Homestead will host an invitational against to teams Park Tudor and North Central.

"Tomorrow's matches should be a real tough test for us leading up to sectionals. The team and I will have to work hard to win the invitational tomorrow," Jade said.

Next Thursday, the postseason run starts for the girls. Matches will be held at Homestead with Wayne, Columbia City, Elmhurst, Whitko and Canterbury competing with Homestead for the sectional crown. Top competition on the list to beat is Canterbury, and the girls only hope for the best.

Weaver: Overcoming the pain, mastering his game

When Chuckie Weaver (12) steps into the batter's box, he's focused. He sees the opposing pitcher's windup, the baseball leaving the pitcher's hand, and his own bat hitting a line drive for a base hit.

Yet, as soon as he sets foot out of that box, Weaver's mind wanders. He grips the necklace, the one with his dad's fingerprint, hidden beneath his Under Armour shirt. He thinks about his dad and wishes, just for a little bit, he could see him now.

For the first fourteen years of his life, Chuckie had learned the fundamentals and intricacies of baseball and teamwork from his dad. Whether it was when they played catch in the backyard, video games in the living room or actual games at the Summit Middle School diamonds, Chuckie cherished every moment he had with his dad.

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

On Dec. 26, 2005, however, things changed. After a long battle with leukemia, the elder Chuck Weaver passed away, and Chuckie was left to continue playing the game he loved without his dad in the stands. Although he misses his dad, Chuckie has used the absence of his father as motivation to play devotionally every single game.

"I think about my dad every day. He taught me so much throughout my life," Chuckie said. "Whenever I go out on that field, I play as hard as I can. I never think about giving up because my mind goes back to how my dad never gave up as he was fighting for his life. He gives me confidence in everything I do."

It may be an understatement to say that Chuck Sr. would be proud of his son. After all, Chuckie has turned into quite the ballplayer. After being an integral part of Homestead's state runner-up team last year, Chuckie hasn't let up. With five home runs already, Chuckie is off to one of his best starts. And after signing with Taylor University in the off-season, Chuckie knows that he will play baseball at the next level, something his dad and he talked about when he was little.

"Playing college baseball was always a dream of mine and my dad's. It would have been great to share the moment with him. I just wish he could watch me play in college and in my college uniform," Chuckie said. "I just wish he was here to share my life with me."

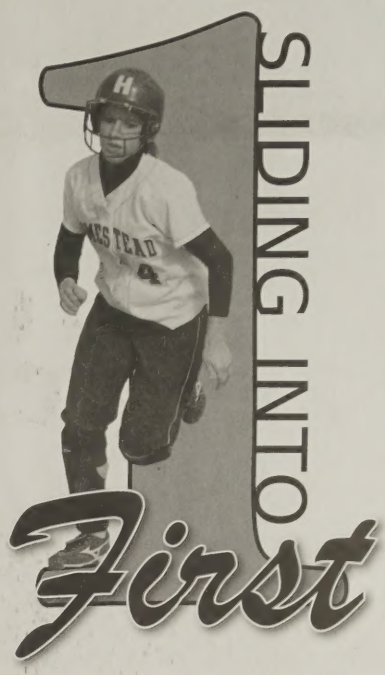
Even though his dad can't physically be with him, Chuckie does his best to make sure he's with him in spirit. On Feb. 13, Chuckie made sure his dad would always be near his heart. Literally. An image of water flowing from two cupped hands was tattooed on the left side of his chest, along with his dad's initials, "C.A.W."

"By putting the tattoo on the left side of my chest, I knew my dad would always be in my heart. To me, this tattoo tells me that whatever I do and no matter what mistakes I make in life, my dad will still love me and he will guide me in the right direction," Chuckie said.

And with the growing fan support and following of Homestead's state-ranked team, Chuckie still looks to the crowd and wishes one more face was watching him play.

"If I could talk to my dad again, I would tell him I love him and that he will always be in my heart," Chuckie said. "I would just want to tell him about my life and get any feedback from him. I think he knows that every hit I get is dedicated to him."

As he stands in the box, staring down the pitcher, Chuckie is focused. With the eyes of the fans watching him, hoping for a hit, Chuckie feels one more pair of eyes on him from above. A quick touch to his heart or the fingerprint necklace around his neck reminds him that he has that extra help from above. After all, Chuck Weaver, Sr. is watching, and he couldn't be prouder.



First in state, softball team remains only undefeated IHSAA squad

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

In sports, perfection is something that very few athletes and teams ever achieve; a perfect game along with a perfect record all in the same season is even rarer. This season, the varsity softball team has had one player reach perfection, and the team is less than one month away from perfection, as well.

Fourth year varsity player Jacqui Matheis (12) became the first player in Homestead softball history to throw a perfect game when she did it this season against the East Noble Lady Knights. Matheis retired 21 consecutive batters while striking out seven and throwing just 62 pitches in the team's 8-0 win.

"I didn't even notice I had a perfect game until the team told me, but once I realized it I thought it was really awesome, since it was my first perfect game and the school's [first perfect game]," Matheis said.

> "This year's team is a lot more confident compared to last year's. We have had great offense, defense and pitching and I think we have what it takes to win sectionals this year and possibly go further than last year."
>
> **MELISSA HARBER (12)**
> Third Base

The team is also on the road to perfection, only needing to finish their season with their perfect win streak intact, another feat that has never been achieved in school history. Currently, the team holds a record of 18-0, including wins over two of the three teams that beat them last year, Huntington North and Mishawaka Marian, which is ranked 14th in the state.

"At the time, Mishawaka was ranked as a top ten team, and we really hit the ball well against that team," Coach Tom Clagg said. "I really think that game has given us a lot of confidence through season."

"Huntington North wasn't the team that they used to be in previous years, but they really had a good team. Even though we didn't play that great, it was still a nice win and a confidence builder as well."

As of May 12, the team was ranked first in the state, according to the Indiana High School Softball Coaches' Poll.

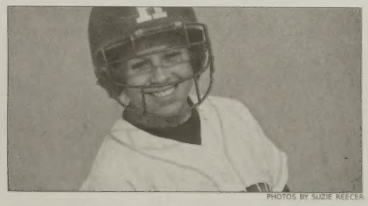
"This year's team is a lot more confident compared to last year's. We have had great offense, defense and pitching and I think we have what it takes to win sectionals this year and possibly go further than last year," Melissa Harber (12) said.

While an unbeaten season is a goal in the back of all of the players' minds, the goal that the team is primarily focusing on is going deeper in postseason play than they did last year. Last year's season ended in disappointment, with the team losing to eventual 4A state champion McCutcheon in the first round of the regional competition. This season, the team will most likely play McCutcheon, who gave the Lady Spartans one of their three losses last year and ended their season, in the regional competition again.

"There would be a different result [if we met McCutcheon this season] because we're strong this year, and now that we have had experience in regionals and we won't be as nervous," Matheis said.

The window for achieving the goal of winning a state title is quickly closing, as this year's team loses eight seniors, including two main pitchers. Of the eight seniors, six are regular starters on this year's team. While the team will still have softball extraordinaire Jena Hamrick (10) next year, experience will be lacking come postseason time.

"I think there is more for the seniors to do well, but I really don't think the seniors will feel the pressure even though this is their last year of playing high school softball," Clagg said. "Hopefully, we can, in fact, go further than we did last year."



PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Left: Mallory Harber (12) attempts a sacrifice bunt to advance the runner. Right: Melissa Harber (12), one of Mallory's triplets, believes this year's team has "what it takes to win sectionals" or possibly progress further.

Boys' track contributes success to well-rounded team

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

The boys' varsity track team remains unbeaten after the Lime City Relays on Saturday, May 2, a meet at Norwell on Tuesday, May 5 and the Warsaw Invitational on Friday, May 8. The success the team has been having can be attributed to several factors: the skilled coaching staff, the team unity, the drive for success and, also, depth. While the team has a very strong competitor in most events, the competitors coming in second and third also chip away at opponents' scores. David Shank (10) attributes the team's success to this depth.

"In almost every event we have an all-star," Shank said. "There's the great thrower, the great sprinter; we have someone good in everything."

Kaleb Cox (11) has another theory as to why the team is doing so well.

"[The reason that we are still undefeated] is the depth and that we are such a close-knit team," Cox said. "[I enjoy] how close-knit the throwers are, and the rest of the runners."

As Shank said, the team has a skilled person in almost every event. For shot put, Scott Harrison (12) has received numerous first-place ribbons, while Ben Hicks (12) has placed first in many of the discus competitions. Cox has improved greatly over the season, improving his discus throw by over 40 feet. Hicks has improved every year that he has thrown, and this year he has become even better than he was last year. At the Warsaw Invitational on Friday, Hicks improved his personal record by three feet with a throw of 140 feet, 7 inches. This throw, combined with Cox's throw, earned the discus duo a third place finish at the invitational.

> There's the great thrower, the great sprinter; we have someone good at everything."
>
> **DAVID SHANK (10)**
> Sprinter

Evan Hanley (12) and Kodi Mullins (10), among others, dominate the long distance running events, and numerous sprinters run quick times as well. Other field events also have many skilled competitors. Coach Jeff Livensparger teaches the runners, throwers and jumpers to go out each day and achieve a personal record (P.R.). He motivates them by offering a candy bar to all who achieve a new P.R. at each meet. This obviously works well, because at each meet, competitors, even those in their first year, have done extremely well.

"It feels good [to be having this amount of success]," Cox said. "This is my first year doing track, and I've been throwing [the discus] really far."

It is quite an achievement to be undefeated this late in the season, considering all of the invitationals that Homestead has placed first in.

"It feels good [to be undefeated this late in the season]," Deavin Eviston (11) said. "I want us to go undefeated all the way to regionals, though."

Hopefully, Eviston's goal will become a reality for the team. On Tuesday, May 12, the team competes in the Northeast Hoosier Conference meet, the sectional meet will be held on Tuesday, May 19 and the team will compete in the regional meet on Tuesday May 26. If everything goes well for Coach Livensparger and the runners, jumpers and throwers on the team, they will have a chance of remaining undefeated.

ROAD TO STATE

Sectionals
Wayne HS
Thursday, May 21
4:30 p.m.

Regionals
Wayne HS
Thursday, May 28
5:30 p.m.

State
IU Bloomington
Friday, June 5
3:00 p.m.

Distance runner Colin Lyman (12) will be competing in sectionals.

PHOTO BY CHARLES WALTER

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Left to Right: Homestead junior Molly Smith prepares an ice cream cone for a customer. Butterfinger pieces are one of the various toppings available at the ice cream shop on Coventry Lane. Smith, who remains unaffected by the lack of male employees at Zesto's, pours a new batch of hot fudge into a container during downtime.

THE ZESTO'S *gender gap*

Columnist addresses elephant in the room at Fort Wayne ice cream shop chain

In today's struggling economy, the effort to find some kind of mediocre employment has become directly proportional to the newly attributed acceptance of such undesired working conditions by teenagers nationwide.

While competition and demand for jobs are increasing, select inhabitants of the Fort Wayne area can be comforted in knowing that a job at Zesto Ice Cream, a locally owned distributor of decadent frozen treats for 12 years running, has it arms open wider than Grandma Gertrude at the family reunion — that is if, based on the statistical trends of the past several years, you are a charismatic female between the ripe ages of 15 and 21, own multiple pairs of school dress code-breaking Soffes, good with laughing at sensually intrigued customers' unoriginal ice cream jokes, a hard worker and a devoted employee.

BY DEREK LUTTRELL
COPY EDITOR

While, according to current owner and manager John Diettrich, a male has not applied for a position to Zesto in three years, the employment-base at Zesto is less diverse than the crowd turnout at a Lil' Wayne concert hosted on Indiana University's front lawn.

"Having female employees of these ages has simply worked the best for the company for the past 12 years," Diettrich said. "Why change something that has worked well now, especially when hiring males in a female-oriented work environment can lead to obvious issues?"

While these "obvious" reasons for no interweaving closely aged opposite genders are definitely understandable, a cynical mind might wonder and find suspicion in such abnormal hiring patterns.

"I've always been interested as to why boys are hardly ever employed at Zesto," Demri Braun (11), an employee since 2006, said. "I really enjoy working with all the co-workers I have now, but the ongoing nonexistence of male employees has always been a lingering question in the back of my mind."

Although having a workplace comprised of attractive, jovial teenage girls is undoubtedly beneficial for a business centered in a family-oriented, Homestead-dominated town such as Fort Wayne, opinions on the reasons behind the narrow employment-base are bound to churn faster than Zesto's morning ice cream batch.

"I think that the fact that males don't work at Zesto is the manager's personal decision, which is understandable because females simply attract more customers than do males," Ryan Cordes (11), devout Zesto customer, said.

With fast food restaurants serve as the leading provider of jobs for today's teenagers, the family-oriented, warmhearted and good-spirited mission statement by which Diettrich aims to run his business is, in his mind, best achieved by the young females of parents to whom he is well acquainted — all of whom serve as the majority of the current employment.

"I know several parents throughout the area, and they are the main source of persuasion as to who I hire," Diettrich said. "By trusting these parents, it is usually safe to assume that I can trust their child as well."

> "Based on my experience, girls at these ages are simply more mature and focused than boys in the workplace. It's too much unnecessary work to supervise the unpredictable actions of boys in this environment."
>
> **JOHN DIETTRICH**
> Owner and Manager, Zesto's

The level of maturity among the respective genders, then, is inevitably the next arising question in deciding who to hire, provided the high intention span, close precision and the immaculate memorization and social skills that all coincide with the art of ice cream serving — a question whose answer is seemingly inarguable when comparing the work ethic of a young lady in desperate need of more tanning minutes to that of a prepubescent male surrounded by frozen custard and unregulated pant lengths.

"Based on my experience, girls at these ages are simply more mature and focused than boys are in the workplace," Diettrich said. "It's too much unnecessary work to supervise the unpredictable actions of teenage boys in this environment."

This moral consensus is apparently shared amongst the current Zesto workforce, unbiasedly agreeing that females are indeed better suited for the job.

"I love all the girls that I work with and have no qualms with not working with any boys," Molly Smith (11), three-year Zesto employee, said. "We can sometimes interact with the male customers anyway, so their presence behind the counter isn't exactly needed."

Insert predictable quote from student about the appreciation of Zesto's lovable workforce and delectable frozen delicacies here.

ADVERTISE. RESPOND. CORRECT. DEBATE. CONTACT. CRITIQUE. AGREE. DISAGREE.
THE SPARTANA. EMAIL THESPARTANA@GMAIL.COM. PHONE (260) 431 - 2261.

the SPARTANA

page 1A
issue 17 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

NEWS LIFE SPORTS

Monday, June 1, 2009

Moake, staff plan '09 tests before break

Assistant principal supports finals prior to Winter Break

BY DAN VANDEVEER
WRITER

With school ending in less than two weeks, the upcoming school year is the furthest thing from students' minds. Yet, as they daydream about what they will do this summer, school officials are already thinking ahead, proposing changes for next year's schedule. One of the major adjustments to the schedule will be ensuring that finals are placed before winter break. This is done so students do not lose all of the information they learned over their two week vacation. Nevertheless, next year appears to have a slight variation to this proposition.

FILE PHOTO

"They are looking at doing finals prior to Christmas Break," Diane Moake, assistant principal, said. "However, the semester would still end in the middle of January. Students would still be finishing up some things from first semester after they came back from Christmas Break, but they'd get those big tests out of the way."

Moake believes that this is a very beneficial change for students because when they take finals after winter break, they may forget some

New Schedule, continued on 2a

BRIEFS

GRADUATION PRACTICE
On June 13, there is a practice graduation ceremony for all students in the Class of 2009. The graduation practice starts at 10 a.m. and will be held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. The actual proceeding will be held nine hours later at 7 p.m. at the same location. Men are to wear dress slacks or khaki slacks, collared shirts with ties and dress shoes. Women are to wear a dress skirt or blouse. They are to leave their purses with their parents as it would distract from the ceremony. Each student will receive a Senior DVD for free..

ANTHIS FIELD DAY
Anthis Career Center is hosting a field day for all students that attend the vocational school on May 27. Field Day will consist of a series of games and challenges that will put students' mental and physical abilities to the test. The event, which is required of all pupils in attendance, will last the full school day.

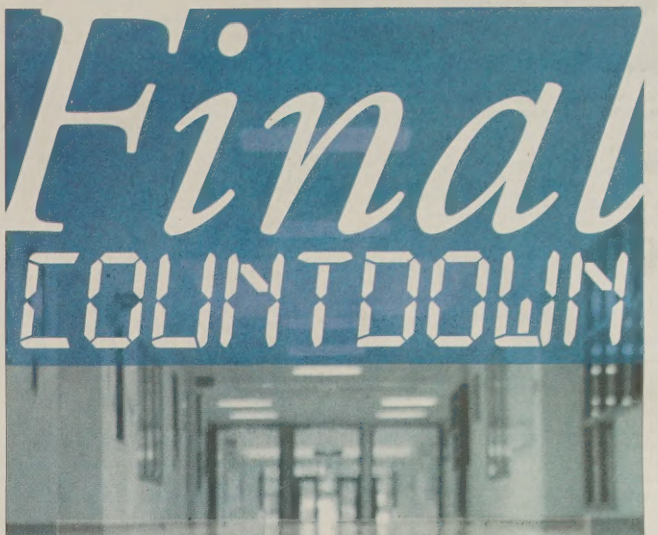
TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Business teacher Brian McNeal has been named Homestead High School's Teacher of the Year. The award, which is given by a committee of former teachers, recognizes exceptionable educators within the district every year.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories continued, Senior Day Activities
PAGE 3A, Opinion: One Last Chance to Sway, Letter to the Editor, The Political Side of Cancer
PAGE 4A, Life: Fort Wayne Summer on a Budget
PAGE 5A, Life: Editor's Farewell, Graduation Festivities, Retirement of Tom Waning
PAGE 6A, Sports: Lacrosse Champions, Boys' Baseball at Parkview Field
PAGE 7A, Sports: **Softball Reign**, Boys' Golf, Full Court Press
PAGE 8A, Feature: Tee Party '08-'09

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Final COUNTDOWN



Students anxiously await end of school year

BY EMILY CHASE
WRITER

For graduating seniors, life after high school is no longer a foggy event to happen in the future. Graduation day, June 13, approaches rapidly and so do the last days of high school.

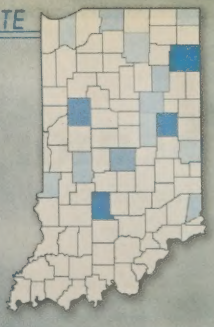
Graduation day is an important event for many people. Families come to visit from out of town to sit through a seemingly endless ceremony just to watch a single person walk across the stage. However, this does not hamper the enthusiasm felt by students and family members. Allison Menze (12) and Michael Breuning (12) have around ten family members attending the ceremony. Melissa Harber (12) and her sisters, Molly and Mallory, have eight people planning on attending the ceremony.

Breuning's family will be traveling to Fort Wayne from Washington, D.C., an approximate ten hour car trip. The Harber family is hosting their extended family in their house during the memorial weekend and will be celebrating the triplet's graduation during the long weekend. They have

Graduation, continued on 2a

OUT HOMESTEAD, IN-STATE

Next fall, 319 Homestead graduates will begin their college careers at a state school. Of that group, 138 students will remain in Allen County for college.*



No students
Fewer than 3 students
3 - 8 students
9 - 16 students
17 - 50 students
50 - 100 students
100 - 150 students.

*Data is derived from senior exit surveys. Not all seniors responded to these surveys.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

The late Rodney Thompson's godmother announces a basketball tournament in his honor during a lunch period on Thursday.

The cause continues

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
WRITER

With the mess of unpredictable rain that has been coming down the past few weeks, it has become almost predictable to hear Joe Updegrove come on the intercom at the end of the day, announcing which athletic games and practices have been canceled. A few weeks ago, the varsity baseball team had planned to have a community event between a doubleheader to promote awareness for "Driving without Texting." Nevertheless, although the games against Concordia were canceled, the cookout was not.

> "It was so awesome to see the support from all of our friends and family that showed up, even though we didn't get to play our games."
>
> **MACE BEECH (12)**
> Baseball Player

On Saturday, May 16, the varsity baseball team hosted a cookout-like community event to promote awareness for "Driving without Texting"— a cause that has become very close to the hearts of Homestead students since the death of Rodney Thompson in October 2008.

Enduring the morning's rain, many family and friends of the baseball team attended this promotional event. A free "Texting without Driving" shirt was given to everyone with admission, and little league baseball players were admitted free with their team jerseys.

Even local firefighters were in attendance to promote this safety event. While the main attraction was going to be the landing of the Lutheran Air helicopter, the rain prevented this from happening.

Rodney, continued on 2a

In his poem, Chris Ray took jabs at his fellow seniors and mocked the drudgery of high school.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Tongue-in-cheek Ray wins Mr. Spartan

Senior uses poetry to sway male beauty pageant judges

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON
WRITER

Beauty pageants have caused a good deal of controversy and ridicule over the last few years, which may or may not have inspired the Mr. Spartan competition. Though these sorts of events are not typically for males, the Mr. Spartan pageant posed a change to this stereotype, challenging senior men to be the embodiment of a Homestead Spartan. Over the course of the night, contestants paraded their best Spartan outfit, performed a talent, fielded a question and finally dressed formally for the results to be revealed—all standard fair for a beauty pageant.

The guidelines for Mr. Spartan were fairly broad, which allowed each contestant to be creative. For example, no

Spartan, continued on 2a

Above: Runner-up Nate Ferrise (12) flexes for the crowd. Bottom: Third place senior Collin McCracken (12) answers the hostess Nicole Szoko's (12) personality question.

Mentors outraged by program's fate

'Staffing issues' prevent Peer Mentor class from returning next school year

BY PATRICK SVITEK AND DAN VANDEVEER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND WRITER

Sam Scaringelli (11) tends to avoid tardies. But when the varsity soccer goalie strolled into a Peer Mentor meeting late Wednesday night, she immediately regretted breaking her habit.

"I heard all of the students bawling their eyes out," Scaringelli said, "and, to be honest, I even cried myself."

Minutes earlier, guidance counselor Brian Dobias had announced the cancellation of the Peer Mentor program for the 2009-'10 school year. The underclassmen tutoring initiative, touted as a flagship feature of the Freshmen Academy upon its completion in 2005, was nixed due to "staffing issues," according to Principal Rick Smith.

> "It was a great program that did nothing but help out... students. It's a shame to see something like that go to a waste."
>
> **KYLE BUSH (11)**
> Peer Mentor

"We just can't afford it," he said.

Dobias' statement was met with widespread shock from the tutors, many of whom who were anticipating their first year with the focus group in the fall. The administration was equally jolted, having only been informed of the decision at 3 p.m. on the same day.

"I wasn't involved last year, but I went through it as a freshman and enjoyed visiting with seniors and learning more about what was to come in high school," Kyle Bush (11) said. "Better managed money

Mentor, continued on 2a

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Melanie Bledsoe (12) talks with freshmen about how to apply for a job as a teen during a session of the Peer Mentor program.

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Tickets for the 3-on-3 basketball tournament sponsored by Rodney Thompson's family are displayed on a table during lunch by his mother, Diveeta Thompson.

Family organizes own 'celebration'

Thompsons promote basketball tournament, June dance party

BY YOGESH JONNA
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

For some it's a game, for others it's a pastime, but for Rodney Thompson, basketball was a way of life. It's hard to believe that it has been 7 months since the class of 2009 lost Rodney Thompson, but his family members and a group of close friends have put together an event to commemorate his life, as well as his love for basketball.

"I hope that it is a time to bring awareness," Diveeta Thompson, Thompson's mother, said. "To have fun and enjoy the day as a means of helping me not being alone and mourning in a negative way over the fact that Rodney is not here."

Seniors Juan Alvarez, Cody Ramer and Rachel Kruse were some of the students who sparked Diveeta Thompson's interest in having an event to remember the life of Rodney. On July 26, 2009, what would have been his nineteenth birthday, Rodney's family and friends will host a 3 on 3 basketball tournament as part of the celebration. The money from the competition will be used for the Rodney Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund, as Diveeta hopes to give back in Rodney's name as a promotion of education.

Most importantly, the day is about how Rodney's fellow students remember him. The goal is for the class of 2009 and other students not to mourn Rodney's death, but instead to celebrate his life on his birthday, hoping all the while that he is still watching with his beloved grin.

"I did not want Rodney to be remembered for the way that he died, but for the person that he was," Diveeta Thompson said.

RODNEY CONTINUED FROM 1A

Other outdoor games had to be canceled as well because of the rain.

Planned by the baseball coaches and parents, the "Driving without Texting" event took place under the pavilion by the baseball fields. Though it was indeed hampered by the rain, those in attendance were still determined to make the day a success.

"Coach Sortir wanted to do a community event, so we decided to promote 'Driving without texting,'" Derek Kinzer (12), a member of the varsity baseball team, said. "We wanted to make an event so we partnered with Lutheran, and the Lutheran Air helicopter was going to land on the practice field, but the rain was too heavy and the clouds were too low."

Even with the rain, the allure of friends and food was enough to make many students delay getting ready for the Prom and go support the team at the "Texting without Driving" event.

"The food was the best part, even though it was rainy and cold," Justin Hoffman (12) said.

"I gorged myself with hot dogs, and hung out with my friends," Luke Berghoff (12) said. "I think the event was wonderful, even though not as many people showed up."

The texting without driving event proved to be a great way for the community to show support of the cause, even with bad weather.

"It was so awesome to see the support from all of our friends and family that showed up, even though we didn't get to play our games," Mace Beech (12), a baseball player, said. "You shouldn't text and drive. I've wrecked a car before, and it was really stupid."

Even with all of the commercials, radio announcements, rear view mirror ornaments and Homestead marquee messages, the fight against texting and driving rages on. The baseball team's "Texting without Driving" campaign was one more way to promote increased awareness on this important issue. Even with the rain deterring some of the prospective attendees and forcing some of the activities to be canceled, the event fulfilled its intended purpose.

NEW SCHEDULE CONTINUED FROM 1A

of the information they once knew.

"I have always been a proponent of wanting students to have their finals before break," Moake said. "Unfortunately, when I was here as principal, there was only one year we got to do that. So, if there is an opportunity for that to happen, I am very satisfied with that."

Along with members of the administration, students also enjoy this idea because after finals, they will have two weeks to relax without the stress of impending tests.

"I really like having finals before break," Jim Finley (10) said. "It gets them out of the way so that we don't have to worry about them over break. It makes winter break more enjoyable."

In addition to this change in the placement of finals, several other alterations have been proposed to the schedule for next school year, including stricter requirements for student attendance.

"Because the State Superintendent of Education has made some changes to the attendance and the number of school days, and what days can be used for your half days, the [last day of finals] has to be a full day — it can no longer be a half day," Moake said. "In the proposed calendar, they're looking at those days changing from half days to full days. The other thing that was being proposed is students wouldn't have any time off for Parent/Teacher Conferences in the spring."

Another issue that is hotly debated between students and administrators alike is the date on which school starts. Next year, the school year will begin unusually late, on August 26, 10 days after this school year's start date. Many students prefer their first day of school to come later in the year because it makes summer appear longer. However, students who look further in the future realize that by the time mid-June rolls around, they will be even more anxious for summer to start.

"The later starting date proposed for next year is good now because the summer will seem longer, but it will be bad later because next summer will probably seem further away in the last months of school," Finley said.

Administrators also argue over this subject, acknowledging that students are likely to become restless in the June school days, when visions of summer and vacation deter their work ethic.

"As far as school starting later in the year, I'm not necessarily happy about that because then it means you go later into June, and I think students are ready to even be out in May," Moake said.

Her words ring true for students, who even now sit in their seventh period classes, reading the last edition of this year's newspaper and waiting what seems an eternity for summer to arrive.

SPARTAN CONTINUED FROM 1A

two contestants took the same approach to the "Dress Like a Spartan" portion of the pageant. While Nate Ferrise (12) dressed like what most people associate a Spartan with (helmet, sword, etc.), others like Aaron Clark (12) seized the opportunity to wear women's clothing to demonstrate the elegance of Homestead Spartans. However, Clark was not the only participant to wear a dress. Ferrise dressed to impress during the Formal Wear section, donning a dazzling gold show choir dress. No matter how bizarre the attire, the results concluded that creativity was rewarded.

"If a guy doesn't have a problem with wearing a dress, then neither do I," Sam Sirois (11), one of the dancers who choreographed the opening dance, said.

However, original outfits were not the only component that defined Mr. Spartan. Overall, the most entertaining acts were appreciated as well. From singing to interpretive dancing and stand-up comedy, contestants attempted to captivate the audience and appeal to the judges. Chris Ray (12), who was ultimately crowned Mr. Spartan, won over the crowd with his comedic poetry about his fellow seniors.

"I think my talent set me apart from the rest," Ray said. "One could argue that others beat me when it came to the dress up portions, but I truly believe my talent won it for me."

> "It was more fun than I had imagined it could be."
> **CHRIS RAY (12)**
> Mr. Spartan

Although his performance was memorable, Ray also relied on his basketball team status and general popularity to come out on top.

Emphasizing the importance of presenting an entertaining talent, the audience enjoyed this portion of the pageant the most.

"[I liked] the talent section because it gave the contestants an opportunity to show why they should be Mr. Spartan without any specific rules or guidelines," Wes Ring (11) said.

Even though much of the event was highlighted by comedy, it was specifically stated that Mr. Spartan was not made to ridicule standard beauty pageants. Some of the contestants used this as an excuse to avoid embarrassment.

"I didn't wear a dress because I wanted to keep some of my dignity," Ray said. "The choreographed dance was extremely feminine to say the least, so when it came to the formal wear, I decided to keep my pride and play off the Senior Superlative 'Most Likely to Have His Mom Tie His Tie' that I won instead."

Besides its brevity, Mr. Spartan was a fun event for everyone involved. Nevertheless, it is yet to be decided whether it will become a yearly activity.

"I definitely think Mr. Spartan should be an annual event," Ray said. "It was more fun than I imagined it could be. It would be fun to have the winner return each year to pass down the sword."

Other students support with Ray's suggestion.

"[Mr. Spartan should be annual] because it gives the seniors one last chance to make their mark on Homestead," Ring said.

With the year winding down and the seniors preparing to graduate, Mr. Spartan did a good job of giving students another chance to recognize some of Homestead's most interesting upperclassmen.

MENTOR CONTINUED FROM 1A

could keep the program alive easily. A tight budget could not be the sole reason to shut it down."

In response to the sudden upset, Scaringelli and fellow participant Maddison Smith (11) have organized a petition to restore the class. Disenfranchised after a year each enrolled in the course, they believe, if anything, the appeal will "show how much [students] love it."

Their activism, though, has evoked mixed reactions from other mentors.

"I think the petition will be somewhat effective, but it won't have a deep impact," Hunter Smith (11) said. "I would be surprised if the district did replace the counselor and we were able to continue the program."

While guidance counselors declined to comment on a future revival of the program, the principal asserts that an effort is underway.

"We hope to brainstorm and see what we can come up with," Smith said.

In the meantime, former Peer Mentors will be contacted by their respective counselors to tweak their fall schedules. For some students, however, no elective could fill the gap left in their course list by the axed favorite.

"The program, in my experience, has been beneficial to upperclassmen in many ways," Allie Bley (11) said. "When you see the difference you can make in just one freshman's life, you want to continue making a difference in all of them."

Senior Moment

Class of 2009 enjoys day off as graduation nears

BY PRIYA PARIKH
WRITER

With a single week of school left, everyone is anticipating the end of the year and the beginning of summer—especially seniors. Involved in a series of activities last week to commemorate the end of their high school career, seniors enjoyed a complementary breakfast catered by Panera, Dunkin Donuts and the Mocha Lounge, as well as a raffle game, a variety show and lunch from Jimmy Johns. The variety show involved many humorous acts and memorable events, including the legendary interpretive dancing of Mac Finley (12) and Derek Kinzer (12), which this time featured Collin McCracken (12) as well.

> "The best [variety show] act was Chris Ray and his poetry, and Mac, Derek and Collin with their dancing. It was cool to see the talent that we never saw before from some of the seniors."
> **MELISSA HARBER (12)**
> Senior

Wanting to make Senior Activities Day as enjoyable as possible, students and parents alike spent much time in preparation of the event.

"The student government seniors had to plan the variety show, and help coordinate the day's schedule," Alex DeFreeuw (12) said. "We worked a lot with the parent club, who had done most of the work for us."

The preparation for this special day encompassed much communication with the parent club. In addition, the acts presented during the variety show were selected from an audition conducted by student government members.

Many changes took place in this year's variety show as compared to those of years past. In previous years, games like Deal or No Deal and Fear Factor were played; however, this year, such activities were replaced by a raffle game.

"Last year they played a big game involving a bunch of people from the class; whereas, this year we didn't have a big game planned, just a few small games during breakfast and between variety show acts," DeFreeuw said. "Other than that, there wasn't much of a difference from last year."

Although the activities showed a change from previous senior activities, students showed their appreciation and enjoyment of the new adjustments.

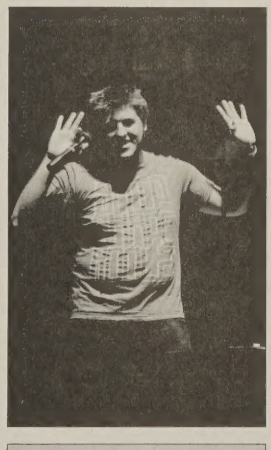
"We were awarded a day of going to school, but had no classes and were able to spend time with our friends," Melissa Harber (12) said. "The best [variety show] act was Chris Ray and his poetry, and Mac, Derek and Collin with their dancing. It was cool to see the talent that we never saw before from some of the seniors."

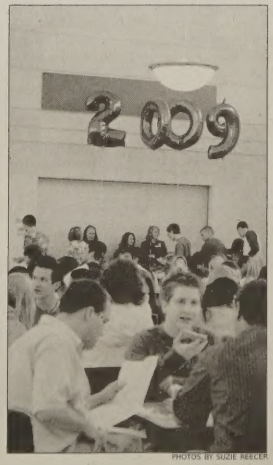
Applauding the performances of fellow seniors as well, Kim Tyner (12) also liked the day's menu.

"The breakfast was quick and had decent food; it was all enjoyable," Tyner said. "The coffee drinks tasted really good, and I loved the senior variety show. Derek and Mac are always hilarious, and Megan Meyer (12) and Kimi Holmes' (12) performance was one of my favorites."

Appreciating their time to shine, participants in the senior variety show enjoyed the performances as much as their audience.

"I had never performed in front of so many people, but I thought it went very smoothly," Harrison said. "I'm glad I got the chance to sing in front of everyone."





PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

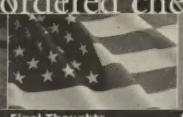
Top: Michael Breuning (12) greets his audience at the senior variety show before diving into a 10-minute standup comedy routine. Bottom: Seniors eat breakfast foods provided by Panera Bread, Mocha Lounge and Dunkin Donuts.

OPINION

liberties in jeopardy due to court-ordered chemotherapy case, 3a

page 3a
issue 17 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Court-ordered Chemo


Final Thoughts

Letter to the Editor

CLOSING statements

Opinion editor shares final remarks, views

BY ASHLEY HEATH
OPINION EDITOR

Throughout the year, I have made some enemies, allies, as well. That is to be expected of the Opinion section. I have made some apparently polarizing statements, both critical and applauding. Most, however, are ideologically different from much of the content in past, and no doubt, future volumes of the Spartana.

I am grateful for the opportunity to publish and present views that are hardly the predominant views of high school students, but have often found that meddling with people's identities can have some troublesome consequences.

One's identity is very much determined by one's political philosophy, whether it be Democrat, Republican, or apathetic. From the campaign rallies I have attended to the authors of letters to the editors we have received, youth in politics fit the stereotypes all too well. From tree hugger to the enlightened apathetic to the religious zealot, arguments have become predictable at best and predictability is the mother of manipulation.

With the senior class graduating and moving on to perhaps the most politically dangerous educational environment and their underclassmen successors falling into their appropriate political roles, the cycle is bound to continue without the necessary aid of some critical thinking abilities. You will be confronted with political choices that can be easily made without processing the issues at hand, but only by including this critical step can you avoid the tyranny of the party.

I will be honest, though. This is not just some nostalgic farewell or predictable plea to "think for yourself" or to "defy the stereotype." This is my final installment of what has been a year-long effort in writing to you from the Spartana. This is my last effort to convince you to not be a liberal.

This will be a challenge. Most of you heading off to college will be confronted by the extreme feminism of Womens Studies requirements, the alarmist agenda of today's environmentalism, and the innate hippiness of the college lifestyle.

Here is the pitfall that some will all too commonly fall into. Amidst the new energy of college campuses, you may finally decide politics might be somewhat important. But this new enlightenment probably won't be a genuine, let alone researched, interest; it will come from an insecurity, the desire to be able to offer a semi-intelligent comment to the conversations among peers that come up every so often.

> "One's identity is very much determined by one's political philosophy, whether it be Democratic, Republican or apathetic. From the campaign rallies I have attended to the authors of letters to the editors we have received, youth in politics fit the stereotypes all too well."
>
> **ASHLEY HEATH**
> Opinion Editor

So in this new venture, you will reach out to an issue that you can care about, the operative word being care. Liberalism is a catch-all for things and people you can care for: the environment, supposed victims of sexism, racism, any -ism, old people, young people, poor people, and all the unique snowflakes in between.

For any political newcomer, this is appealing. Who wouldn't want to buy into the identity of the positive spin of a bleeding heart: a kind, generous and compassionate soul? Well, for one, those who believe that the poor (and the other income classes) will be taken care of by the self-correcting powers of a free market, that individuals can be judged by their behaviors and cultures by their products, that industrial expansion is indeed a positive goal, and that individuals and families must be able to act as they see fit, within the limited confines of the law, whose only purpose is to ensure the most inalienable rights.

So as you journey the road of your political development, let this be your map. If you want something to care about, I'd say freedom trumps them all.

Court-ordered chemotherapy a dangerous precedent to set

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
WRITER

The freedom to control one's own body and the independence to freely practice religion are perhaps two of the most precious liberties granted by the United States Constitution. However, these freedoms seem rather meaningless when potentially lethal religious ideology combines with atrocious parenting to slowly and progressively kill a powerless adolescent.

In Minnesota, 13-year-old Daniel Hauser has been ordered by a judge to undergo chemotherapy in order to treat his lymphoma, despite his parents' desire to treat their son with natural therapies. The chemotherapy is estimated to have a 95% rate of success, but refusing treatment is equivalent to essentially handing Hauser a death sentence.

The fact that the court is able to intervene by eliminating one's control over his/her own body certainly establishes a dangerous precedent; such an action of forcing someone to have unwanted medical treatment bespeaks something of a dystopian future. While the court has indeed overstepped its boundaries by forcing this outcome upon a person wholly capable of making his own decision, the truly reprehensible component of this situation remains to be Hauser's parents, who claim to be Roman Catholics and deny the benefits of modern medicine.

Although Hauser's parents intend to pursue alternative medicine, it is foolishness to believe that any existing natural therapy could be as aggressive as modern medicine in successfully treating an equally aggressive cancer. Hauser's parents have been so blindly brainwashed by religion and spiritual absurdity that they would passively allow their son to be martyred for it. This case does not lend itself to multiple interpretations; it is a tragedy through and through, and no matter how allegedly noble the justification, any reason to passively kill a child has no reasonable basis whatsoever beyond eventual heartbreak.

A parent is obligated to act in the best interest of his/her child, and Hauser's parents have failed to do that. It is not the court's place to dictate how to raise one's children, but the government can be commended for attempting to free a helpless adolescent from the oppression of his parents' inflated sphere of influence. Perhaps the most troubling aspect of this case is that numerous entities see fit to forcefully shape the outcome of Hauser's life when he is clearly of age to determine his own course; has anyone so much as given him the opportunity to make a choice? The only person involved with any right to make a choice is Hauser.

Let the court back out, and hopefully Hauser's parents will lift the veil of oblivion from their eyes long enough for their son to make a decision. It can only be hoped that they realize their mistake before their son dies for it.

> "Hauser's parents have been so blindly brainwashed by religion and spiritual absurdity that they would passively allow their son to be martyred for it."
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> Writer

Thirteen-year-old Daniel Hauser has been diagnosed with lymphoma. His parents wish to treat him using natural therapies, but the courts have other plans; a ruling was made that ordered Hauser be put through chemotherapy.

LETTER TO THE editor

Senior comments on Obama's controversial college address

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Adrienne Westenfeld's "Hypocritical bishop must follow his own principles." In the article, she gives her believed reasons as to why Bishop D'Arcy should accept Obama's commencement speech at Notre Dame's graduation ceremony. I am not bashing her writing style or her beliefs in my response, only the misconstrued facts that she backs up her arguments with. Westenfeld begins her article discussing how Bishop D'Arcy's ethics in "vocalizing displeasure" with Obama's commencement speech are "questionable." Why are his ethics questionable? He is only boycotting something that goes against his moral principles, and those same principles have been instilled in the Catholic Church for hundreds of years. What Westenfeld is really questioning here are the principles between right and wrong of millions of people. She should be questioning the actions that portray these ethics, not the ethics themselves. I agree with Westenfeld that Obama is at Notre Dame's graduation in order to discuss the value of education and "the importance of pursuing dreams" because it is always great to have an inspiring person to speak at such events, though his opinions may not reflect the school. It is difficult, though, when the speech giver stands for the killing of innocent lives; something that Notre Dame, a Catholic University is strongly against. Even though Notre Dame is a university that is open to students of all religions, it is still based on the teachings of Catholicism. Students who go there do not have to convert to the Church, but they are still immersed in its teachings everyday. It is silly to have a Catholic university and not expect it to uphold its beliefs. Westenfeld goes on to discuss when former president George W. Bush spoke at Notre Dame and how he "allowed a tragic 131 executions during his five-year term as the governor of Texas." She then accuses Bishop D'Arcy of having a political instead of a moral initiative for his boycott against Obama at Notre Dame and points out that the "thou shalt not kill" be applied to this instance along with the matter of abortions. Westenfeld is insinuating that killing people because they have done wrong is the same as killing people because their parents could not control themselves. If this were the case, though, she is saying that no presidents should speak at graduations because they have okayed the killing of criminals. As for the comment about how the bishop should follow the commandment "love thy neighbor as thyself," it was uncouth for Westenfeld to suggest that he follow this because he is not doing anything to harm Obama. He is only expressing his beliefs, and is that so wrong? Also, the Catholic Church believes that capital punishment is only to be used in the most severe of cases, like in the cases for serial killers. So yes, that commandment is reciprocal. Obviously, Notre Dame is a Catholic University. Everyone gets that. The students at the university neither have to agree with Catholic view or Obama's views, but it is in bad taste to have a man who is for abortions to speak—whether it be about education or not—at a Catholic University. That would be as bad as having President Woodrow Wilson, a known racist, speak at the University of Grambling in Louisiana, which is predominantly attended by African American students. If he did speak there, it may be about the importance of education, but would it be the best idea for a man with his racist views to even be present there? I think not. I am all for different opinions, but not for blasphemous statements that have not a solid foundation to uphold them.

OPINION
LET AND WRITE
DEFIANT
Mr. Spartan contest pushes senior agenda

Sincerely,
Meghan O'Connor

the SPARTANA

STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2008-2009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MARGARET DISTLER

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
BRAD LUFKIN
PATRICK SVITEK

COPY EDITORS
ANDY FRANKLIN
DEREK LUTTRELL

PHOTO EDITOR
SUZIE REECER

NEWS EDITOR
KARA HACKETT

OPINION EDITOR
ASHLEY HEATH

ASSOC. OPINION EDITOR
YOGESH JONNA

LIFE EDITOR
HANA SVETLOVICS

SPORTS EDITOR
CHRIS RAY

BUSINESS MANAGER
KALYN JORGENSEN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
KYLE DOLFUSS
BEN MIKESELL
CHRIS ROZMAN
CHARLES WALTER

DESIGNERS
MARY DISTLER
BETH HUBER

WRITERS
BRAD ADAMSON
KARA BUSSE
EMILY CHASE
CARRIE CUMMISKEY
ALEX FUTTER
JOE HANAUER
NICOLE IVANOVIC
CAM KAMINSKI
COLLIN MCCRACKEN
MATTHEW MIKESELL
AREZOO NAZARI
FLOR ORTEGA
PRIYA PARIKH
STEPHANIE PONTON
TAYLOR THOMPSON
DANIEL VANDEVEER
ANDREW WEISS
ADRIENNE WESTENFELD

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalist are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to policy number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to the Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

Seniors celebrate end of high school with graduation parties, page 5a

page 4a
issue 17 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Graduation Parties Summer Suggestions Mr. Waning

Monday, June 1, 2009

10 places to spend *under $15* for summer fun

BY HANA SVETLOVICS AND NICOLE IVANOVIC
LIFE EDITOR AND WRITER

Putt Putt Fun Center
4530 Speedway Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814
(260) 483-7618

Putt Putt is a great place to not only practice your miniature golfing skills, but relax in the great Fort Wayne weather with your friends. The three themed courses are a Jungle Safari, Volcanoes, and Pro. After a mini round, cool off in the arcade room or take a lap around the go kart racing track. Located on the north side of town, the activity center serves as one of the only places to practice putting for a low price. Deals get better by the game, being six dollars for one game, eight for two, and nine for three games.

Black Pine Animal Park
1426 W. 300 N.
P.O. Box 02
Albion, IN 46701
(260) 636-7383

Black Pine is an animal park for rescued and retired exotic animals. The park's mission is what makes it stand out from other animal parks, in the fact that its number one mission is to provide a safe haven for the animals. Because of this, it is not focused on appealing to the aesthetic view of the public, but to create the awareness of the threat to endangered animals. Black Pine has many tours available for anyone visiting the park on a daily basis, or tours that are focused on the educational values that are captured at the facility. The prices for visiting the park are seven dollars for adults, which solely goes to the park fund, to provide better care for the animals.

Rock the Plaza
900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Every Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m.

Saturdays in Fort Wayne are guaranteed fun for rock music lovers. Starting June 6, the Main Library will begin its free concert series called Rock the Plaza, a weekly show comprised of local bands and sponsored by local radio station Rock 104. Each show begins at 6 p.m. and goes until 10 p.m., making metered parking free for everyone. Due to Independence Day, the show that should be scheduled on that Saturday is occurring on Sunday, July 5. There also are schedule alterations due to the Three Rivers Festival in late July. More information can be found on the library's website at www.acpl.lib.in.us.

PHOTO FROM MSKTD.COM

Huntington Drive In
1291 Condit Street
Huntington, Indiana 46750
(260) 356-5445

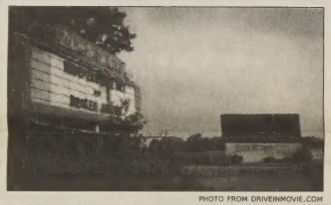
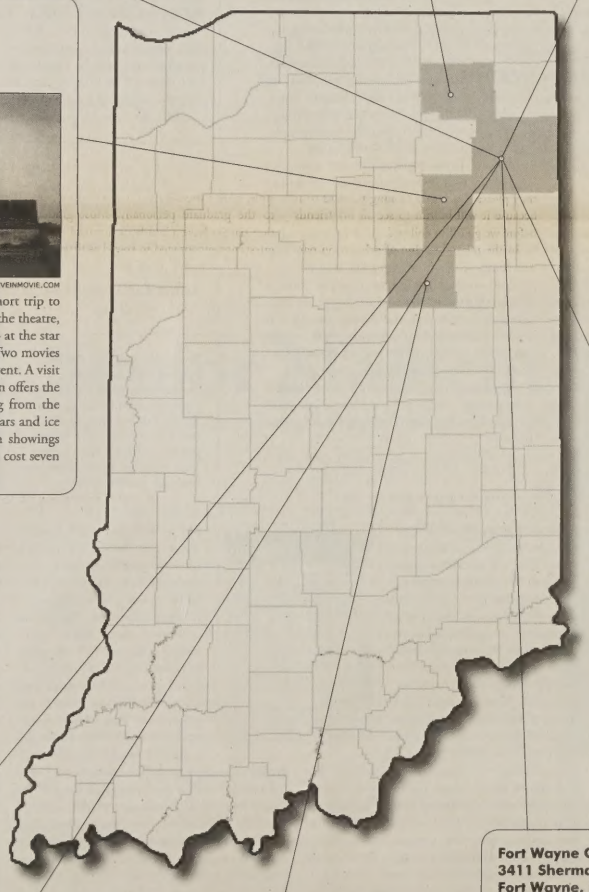


PHOTO FROM DRIVEINMOVIE.COM

For a new movie showing experience, a short trip to visit the Huntington Drive In is required. At the theatre, one can get cozy under a blanket and look up at the star struck summer sky while watching a movie. Two movies are shown per night, creating a truly unique event. A visit to the concession stand during the intermission offers the viewer an enormous variety of food, ranging from the traditional popcorn and nachos to elephant ears and ice cream. During the school year, the Drive In showings are on the weekend, and the tickets for adults cost seven dollars.



Three Rivers Festival
333 S. Clinton Street
Fort Wayne IN, 46802
July 11-19

Food alley all week, chalk walk and arts fair 11-12, parade 11, junk food alley 10-19, craft market 11-12, finale fireworks July 19 at 10:00 p.m.

As summer break reaches its halfway mark, Fort Wayne will be gearing up for its annual Three Rivers Festival—nine days of fun, with activities for all age groups. Events officially start with the National City Parade on Saturday, July 11 at 10 a.m. and end with the Finale Fireworks on Sunday, July 19 at 10 p.m., with hundreds of events in between. The Festival includes both local and popular names in concerts and Junk Food Alley every night of the week. The locally renowned chalk walk is on opening weekend along with Art in the Park, a local art sale. Concert and food prices will vary depending on taste, but there is no entrance fee to walk around the markets or Junk Food Alley.

Baer Field Speedway
4331 Winters Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46809
Motocross Open Riding on Wed
Fridays GO Karts at 8 p.m.
Saturday Races at 7:30 p.m.
(Qualifying at 5 p.m.)

For a new, exciting experience, look no further than Baer Field Speedway behind the Fort Wayne Airport to provide entertainment. The Speedway has two half mile, paved, oval tracks for race cars, and also includes a go kart track and a motocross track. The main attraction is the car racing that occurs every Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. Qualifying starts at 5 p.m. for anyone interested in a closer look at the cars on the track. Saturday night events cost $12 for adults and $5 for children.

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
3411 Sherman Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808
(260) 427-6800

Everyone has gone to the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, but of course, that is one of the fun parts about the zoo; it never gets old. And this year, the Fort Wayne Zoo is making many improvements to the facility that has been rated one of the top ten zoos in the country by Parents Magazine. The new African Journey is opening on June 6, and the recently renovated Sky Safari gives a better view of the animals below. The summer is the prime time for visiting the zoo, with the majority of the animals outside playing in the sun. A variety of camps are offered for kids age 4-14, which offers a learning experience for all ages. A day pass is offered for the price of twelve dollars, which goes to maintain the park, and updating the homes of the animals.

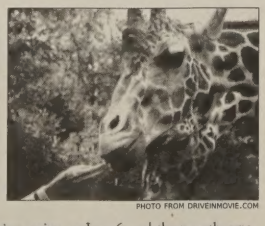


PHOTO FROM DRIVEINMOVIE.COM

First Presbyterian Theatre
300 West Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
(260) 422-6111

For an alternative venue to go and watch Broadway shows in Fort Wayne, the First Presbyterian Theatre is the place to visit. Shows of the past include Macbeth, Fiddler on the Roof, and It's a Wonderful Life. The shows are performed with a local cast, offering the opportunity for actors in Fort Wayne to play in a Broadway production. This season's show list offers productions such as On Golden Pond, Crowns, Boiling Pot, Rabbit Hole, and The Underpants. Tickets for the productions cost fourteen dollars, and for students that wish to go and see the shows, calling them at 422-6329 ahead can insure free tickets.

Splash House
2601 South Adams Street
Marion Indiana, 46953
Mon-Fri 4 to 8 p.m.
Saturday 11 am to 8 p.m.
Sunday 12 to 7 p.m.
Rental and parties 765-668-1794

&

Ivanhoe's
979 South Main Street
Upland, IN 46989
Mon-Thurs 10 to 10 p.m.
Fri-Sat 10 to 11 p.m.
Sun 2 to 10 p.m.

When the dog day's of summer set in, nothing is better than cooling off and relaxing by the pool. This summer, taking a day trip to Marion and visiting the Splash House is a must. About double the size of the old Sweeney Park Pool, this water park features water slides, a lazy river, a bucket dump and a swimming area all for $5. Also included on location is a full snack bar, but for the more adventurous traveler, a short, fifteen minute drive to Upland offers the reward of the best ice cream in Indiana. Ivanhoe's is located on Main Street in this Taylor University town, and has been open for over 40 years. Ivanhoe's offers 100 different sundae and shake combinations as well as several types of traditional diner food, all at a reasonable price.

Important to embrace high school opportunities

As a result of my four years at Homestead, I have decided that making it through high school would have been unbearable if I had never ventured to try anything new. So often individuals, myself included, doubt their abilities and miss out on remarkable opportunities because they weren't willing to take a risk.

As an eighth grader, I had huge plans for my next four years in high school. When fate forced me to change my plans, I had to develop a new niche. So, I spent the entire summer before my freshman year training to become a cross country runner, and in that time, the conversations I had with others during our jogs motivated me to keep going and to finish without walking. I listened carefully to the advice they gave me because I wanted to be prepared for high school cross country. For the upperclassmen, sharing their experiences was just another chat during a run down Eggeman Road. As for me, I clung on to every word they said, hoping to know as much as humanly possible about what to expect for the upcoming season and the next four years of my life.

BY MARGARET DISTLER
EDITOR-IN CHIEF

By the time swim season rolled around, I was hesitant to join Homestead's team, completely aware of my lack of natural athletic talent. When one of the seniors extended an invitation to the team's annual pre-season sleepover, I decided to take the plunge and see what the swim team was all about. Had she not invited me to initial team gathering, I am positive that I would have never endured through the brutal practices long enough to create lasting friendships with the swim "family." Now, I am grateful not only for her initiative, but for my parents because they pushed me to go to practice every day.

A major component of high school being exposed to all of the new experiences, whether it be developing an unique talent or joining a club or team that always sounded like fun. Once you've received your high school diploma, though, the opportunities offered in high school vanish and a whole new set of experiences becomes available.

While I am excited for the new environment and friendships waiting for me in college, I can't help but reminisce on my four years at Homestead and smile. Believe it or not, Homestead is a phenomenal school. It has its kinks, but overall, the opportunities here are extraordinary if you are willing to work for what you want.

One of my original expectations for high school that I did fulfill was to be on a staff for one of the publications. I know the first time I stayed after school to work on the *Spartana*, I was nervous about my ability to design a page that would meet the high standards. With every issue, though, I became more familiar with the program and eventually learned the shortcuts that allowed me to design pages twice as fast.

When the journalism advisor, Mr. Kuhn, told me earlier in the year that, as the Editor-in-chief, I needed to eat, sleep and breathe the *Spartana*, I doubted my ability to live up to his lofty expectations and to the 14 All-American Publication awards accomplished by the editors before me. But, after designing over 50 pages for the *Spartana*, I have learned to accept the risks every time we send a newspaper off to be printed. I have also learned that, despite our best efforts, the publication will never be completely perfect.

Little by little, I have learned the ins and outs of this school and, after four years, 4310 Homestead Road really does feel like home. And unlike most of my fellow seniors, I'm going to have a hard time leaving the school this Friday. I've spent a few twelve hour shifts in the building working on the newspaper, fully aware that only a handful will take the time to actually read what we produce. Unfortunately, I have delayed a few assignments because I was busy working on the newspaper. But, it was a risk I was willing to take because I was busy working on something I truly love.

the time of year for

FUN *farewells*

Seniors cap off high school years with graduation parties to celebrate accomplishments, spend time with family, friends

BY FLOR ORTEGA
WRITER

After four long and tiresome years of high school, seniors will be ready to bust down the doors as they walk out of the building for the last time. Yet the celebrated freedom that comes with the end of the year also goes hand in hand with uncertainty and goodbyes; before the tears start to stream down seniors' faces, it is time to throw cheerful graduation parties.

With all of the stress that the end of the year brings to seniors, it may be difficult to find the energy or time to organize a fancy or intricate party. Graduation parties tend to be informal, and the organizing usually ends up in the hands of parents. Whether the parties are family traditions or easygoing get-togethers with friends, the celebrations encompass a casual mood.

"I decided to have a graduation party because my older sister had one, and it seems like the thing to do. At my party we are going to have a moon-walk and my mom is making a bunch of food," Claire Lundergan (12) said. "It's [going to be] a pretty laid back party and people can come and go as they please. I'm really looking forward to it because it will be fun to see all my friends before we go off to college."

In the relaxed setting of graduation parties, hosts don't usually expect elaborate presents or expensive tokens of affection. Simple words of goodbye or a heartfelt gift are enough to satisfy most graduates.

"I don't expect much of anything from the 'friends' guests. What high schooler is honestly going to go to 50 graduation parties and give [all the graduates] gifts? I'd be surprised at anything more than a card," Collette Spears (12) said. "'Family' guests tend to give more cards containing money. But I'm not going to throw a fit if everyone doesn't give me a $20."

For the students planning on attending several graduation parties in one day, it is recommended that lists are created and directions to each party location are gathered prior to beginning party hopping. The weekends before and after graduation tend to be the most common days for graduation parties, so most graduates with parties on those days are aware that their guests may not be able to stay for a long period of time. If possible, guests should extend their best wishes to the graduate personally. Most graduation parties have a laid-back atmosphere, so guests are encouraged to spend as little or as much time there as possible.

> "I am having a graduation party to celebrate the end of the first solid chapter of my life. My party is going to celebrate all of the memories I created with my friends and family."
>
> **LAUREN DOUST (12)**
> Hosting a Graduation Party

With summer in full bloom, the atmosphere is perfect for a grilled meal, all prepared in the comfort of a backyard, to go along with the casual mood of most graduation parties. Finger-foods often appear on the menu, as most guests prefer to eat while talking.

"I'm not positive on what food exactly I'll be having, but I know I'll have sub sandwiches, probably chips and salsa and fruit; lots of snacks people can just munch on. I know a lot of other people with graduation parties on the same day as mine, so I don't expect them to want to eat a full meal at my house," Shelby Nichter (12) said.

Also acceptable are outdoor recreational games to keep with the spirit of summer. Whether it is badminton, volleyball, flag football or cornhole, keeping guests entertained is important. A deck of cards is always useful in case of rain. Graduation parties are meant for reunions and departures, so it is recommendable to provide a means of evoking memories and making them.

"I don't have any activities planned for my party," Lauren Doust (12) said. "I am just having the typical photo boards and a picture slideshow. I will probably have books for people to sign and write down favorite memories that we shared."

As routines, lists, schedules and customs wind down to an end with the beginning of a new school year, occupation or lifestyle approaching, an ending note is necessary. Graduation parties provide that tone of finality, wrapping everything up as high school becomes a part of the past for graduating seniors.

"I am having a graduation party to celebrate the end of the first solid chapter of my life," Doust said. "My party is going to celebrate all of the memories I created with my friends and family. It's a good time to reunite with people and hang out. I love grad parties."

GREAT GIFTS FOR GRADUATES

Depending on how well you know the graduate whose party you are attending, it may or may not be appropriate for you to bring a gift. Gifts are not required at parties; often a nice note to the graduate will suffice. But if you choose to give a gift, here are suggestions from what current seniors said they would love to receive.

- **GIFT CARDS**
  More personalized than just giving money, gift cards give your graduate the flexibility to buy what they want and need.
- **LUGGAGE**
  To be used mainly for school breaks, new luggage helps your grad keep everything together.
- **MAP & GAS CARDS**
  If your graduate wants to go on a summer road trip, a map and gas cards may be helpful.
- **SUPPLIES FOR THE GYM**
  Help the graduate keep off the dreaded "Freshman 15" by stocking them with items they can use when working out.
- **RAIN BOOTS & UMBRELLA**
  There's nothing worse than being stuck on campus during a rainstorm, so prepare your grad with proper rain gear.
- **DORM SUPPLIES**
  The ability to personalize their new space allows the graduate individuality in their dorm.
- **PHOTO ALBUMS**
  Being away from familiar people and places might cause homesickness and pictures of home are worth more than a thousand words.
- **BATHROOM TOTE**
  With all the toiletries and not enough arms, a bathroom tote is helpful to move around the community bathrooms.
- **iPOD & SPEAKERS**
  Whether hanging out or studying, music is important in the college lifestyle.

Science department head retires

After teaching for 39 years, Tom Waning looks forward to change of scenery

BY BRAD ADAMSON
WRITER

Since 1970, Tom Waning, head of the science department, has been a loyal teacher to the SACS Corporation. Now, the time has come where Waning has decided to say good-bye to his fellow teachers and leave the group of people he likes the best.

"I think contact with the students and faculty is what I will miss because they are a tremendous group of people," Waning said. "That is what I am going to miss the most."

After 39 wonderful years of teaching, Waning realizes that he should retire and let someone else take his place as head of the science department. Eventually time takes a toll on a person and now Waning is feeling that toll.

"I'm old. Once you get to a certain age, it's time and you just know it," Waning said. "There is no physical reason or that kind of stuff, it's just that I'd like to do something else, and get away from this constant routine of getting up every day at the same time and all of the work that is involved. I'd like to try some different things."

Just seeing students from the past can bring up great memories for any teacher. To Waning the most rewarding part of being a teacher for 39 years comes when the students report back from their college and real-world experience.

> "I think when you see the success that the students have ... you know you've contributed towards their success. Those are the things that make it worthwhile."
>
> **TOM WANING**
> Science Department Head

"I think when you see the success that the students have, like if they win the science fair or they come back and tell you that they are doing well in college, you know you've contributed towards their success," Waning said. "Those are the things that make it worthwhile."

After retirement, Waning plans on doing less stressful work. Whether it be spending the day admiring nature or working with some college science professors, Waning knows that he will still have an active life.

"I have some lines on doing some work out at IPFW with their science department, maybe Ivy Tech," Waning said. "I'll do some volunteering; I'm going to do a little bit of stuff for St. Vincent's DePaul. I'm not sure but [I know] I won't just sit around. [I will] play some golf and some racquetball."

With only a few days left as a high school teacher, Waning has had time to reminisce and think of some final words.

"I would just like to thank the students, the parents, and faculty for being supportive and doing the best with education," Waning said. "This is a great school corporation."

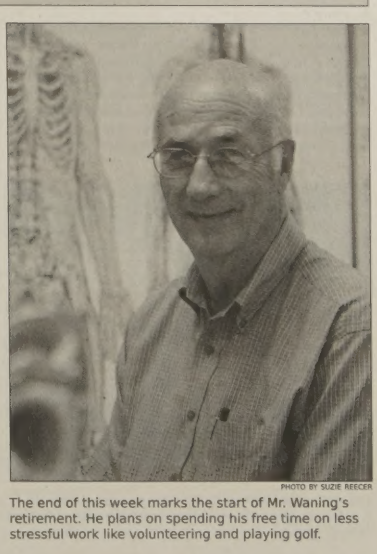


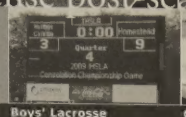
PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

The end of this week marks the start of Mr. Waning's retirement. He plans on spending his free time on less stressful work like volunteering and playing golf.

SPORTS

spring sports enter intense post-season play with big hopes, page 7a

page 6a
issue 17 volume 39
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814



Boys' Lacrosse

Girls' Tennis

Softball

Ending with a BANG

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Left: Justin Young (12) fights to get off a pass in a home scrimmage against Snider on April 7. Young had 24 points on the season, with 23 goals and one assist. Above: Zach Stephens (12) completes a pass against Snider. The Spartans lost a later game to Snider 7-6.

Overlooked lacrosse team overcomes tough start to earn championship

BY ANDREW WEISS
WRITER

When an athletic team brings home a state championship, some kind of recognition is deserved. However, for sports that are in the shadows of more popular sports, even a state championship can go unnoticed. A state championship is now in the possession of the boys' varsity lacrosse team, and the members of the team are hoping for some recognition.

"Hopefully our championship will show the student body that lacrosse is a legit sport and not just a bunch of guys practicing after school," Kevin Kelley (11), midfielder, said. "We work just as hard as any other team, and it showed this season with our success."

The team won the Indiana High School Lacrosse consolation tournament on Friday, May 22, beating Heritage Christian (Indianapolis) by a score of 9-3. The consolation tournament was an eight team tournament consisting of the bottom eight ranked teams in the state. This was the second consecutive year that the consolation tournament was won by a Fort Wayne school – rival Snider won the tournament last season.

The Spartans, who played in the actual state tournament last season, was the top seed in the consolation bracket. The team was just edged out by Bishop Chatard for the last seed in the state tournament.

"At first I think [the team] was fairly disappointed with not making the state tournament, but once we really thought about it, it was probably a good thing because of how far we were able to go [in the consolation]," Ryley Myers (11), starting goalie and all-state honorable mention, said.

The championship game was a rematch of a regular season game in which the team was beaten by Heritage Christian 7-5 earlier this month. Heritage Christian was ranked 14th in the state heading into the game, one position lower than the Spartans.

"The game in the regular season against them was fairly disappointing because we knew we could beat them," Myers said. "We ended up playing them on one of the practice fields that was in pretty bad shape. Had we played them on the turf, we probably would have beaten them."

The team was able to overcome a 1-8 start to the beginning of the season, which included six straight losses. Rather than shutting down for the season, the team was able to rebound and win nine of their last 10 games.

"It was hard for us to keep going after such a slow start in the first half [of the season], but after we started winning games we just kind of got on a roll and it really didn't stop," Alex Rahn (12), team captain, said.

Rahn, who lead the team in 17 reported games with 30 points, 20 of which were goals, also received an all-state honorable mention as a midfield and face-off man. Next year, Rahn will attend St. John's University in Minnesota and will have the chance to play lacrosse for the Johnnies next spring.

While the team would like to build on the success of this past season, it will be extremely difficult. The varsity team is losing nearly half of its players due to graduation, including defensive star Brian Strzelecki (12), who was named second team all-state for defense.

"It's going to be a challenge for us to improve on our success from last year, but it will be just like any other high school sport; if the players coming back can fill the holes of the players leaving, we can improve," Kelley said. "While we might not have as much talent next year as this past year's team [had], we can be just as successful with hard work and leadership."

Boys' golf places third in NHC, heads into sectional play with hope

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

As the school year begins to wind down, the same goes for the boys' varsity golf team's season. The team, led by Michael Jenkins (12) and Al Jennings (11), finished the regular season by placing third in the Northeast Hoosier Conference. The team will now focus on postseason play, hoping the duo of Jenkins and Jennings will lead them far. However, the team will have to have a group effort from every member, including Brock Rohlfing (12), Grant Sawyers (12) and Jon Finley (10).

The team opens sectional play June 5 in an invitational-style round with several other different schools, with the top three schools advancing onto the regional competition. The team is focused on making sure they are indeed one of the top three teams advancing to the next round. But advancing to regionals is not the only goal the team has set; the team wants to go all the way to the second day of competition at the state level.

"I'm practicing much more seriously and harder than ever right now," Jenkins said. "I want to finish this season strong."

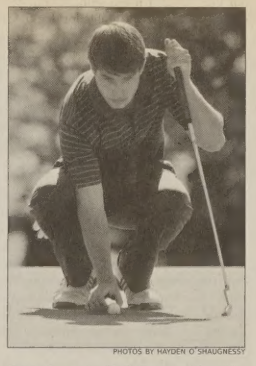
The team practices have also been different in preparation for the postseason. Instead of only playing rounds of golf during practice sessions, the team is focusing on key points to improve individual weaknesses. The team is also taking the practice golf rounds very seriously. Some of the players focus on putting and hitting the greens from the tee while others improve on their short chipping game and getting out of sandtraps. They cannot prepare by practicing what the opposition will do; the golfers only have to do well in their own golf game.

"This past week I have been working on my sand shots," Rohlfing said. "I know I am really going to have to work hard to advance past regionals."

After sectionals, the golfers who advance are decided based on scores alone. While the glory of advancing individually is something to be proud of, the golfers feel they would rather see the entire team advance all the way to state instead of only one or two individuals advancing. Getting the entire team onto regionals and, finally, into the state finals will be a difficult task, and the players know they will have to work hard.

"I think we should [be able to] get past sectionals," Rohlfing said. "I really think we can go really far in the tournament."

With Jenkins and Jennings leading an experienced group of golfers, the team should make a strong push past sectionals and into regionals. Playing smart will help throughout the tournament and could give the Spartans the edge over some of the other golfers in the tournaments. The ultimate accomplishment of reaching the state competition will be very difficult for even the best golfers on the team to reach, but playing their best golf will be key for Jenkins, Jennings, Rohlfing, Sawyers or Finley to advance that far into the tournament.



PHOTOS BY HAYDEN O'SHAUGNESSY

Grant Sawyers (12) lines up his putt during a match against East Noble.

Baseball looks to carry success into postseason

Team heads to sectionals with momentum from season, leadership from seniors

BY JOE HANAUER
WRITER

Winning conference is tough. However, winning sectionals, regionals, semi-state, and reaching the state finals is something some teams will never dream of accomplishing. Nevertheless, last year's varsity baseball team achieved all of these goals. A year later, the current squad hopes to return to the post-season with the same domination that they had in the summer months of last year, only they would like to end the year with a "W" instead of an "L."

As the team heads into the sectionals, they know there are tough teams that stand in their way. Earlier this season, the Spartans fell to a pesky Huntington North squad 11-3. A possible rematch could occur in the championship, but the Spartans must beat a tough Jay County team as well as the winner of the North Side vs. Marion matchup. The Spartans are confident that they can repeat as sectional champions.

"Our biggest goal is to get back to state and win it this time, but we have to take it one game at a time and play as hard as we can for each inning," Derek Kinzer (12) said.

If the team reaches the regional round, the players and coaches know that a positive mindset is needed in order to match last year's success. Coach Steve Sotir stresses that the team needs to stay focused during the entire game if they want to win against the challenging teams they'll face on their way to the state tournament. Additionally, they know that the moments where they have mental lapses have been their toughest enemy over the last few weeks.

That's not to say that the team hasn't been able to perform under pressure. They are currently ranked 5th in state according to the Indiana Coaches Poll. Some argue that the team is more talented than last year's squad. With more than half of the seniors planning to play college baseball, it's easy to see why this team could make a run.

"Our team is very talented this year, we have talent all the way through the line up, anyone can step up at any time and take over the game," Cody O'Neal (11) said.

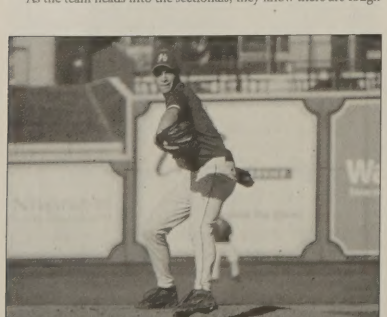
One major factor that will help the team's quest to win their sectional tournament is that the entire tournament will be played at the Spartans' home field. Being able to play on their own field will definitely give the team an advantage by knowing all of the nooks and crannies of the diamond. Even though the fans will still have to pay full admission, and sports passes will not be accepted, the already large fan base won't have to worry about the drive to other fields to watch the team.

"Last year our fans traveled really well, but it's nice to not have to ride on a bus somewhere to play. It's our home so were used to it and all are very comfortable with it," O'Neal said.

Everyone on the team knows that they will be going into the post-season this year with a bulls-eye on their backs, but with a tough sectional ahead and a confident team gearing up, these Spartans believe they have what it takes to match the unbelievable success they had last season.

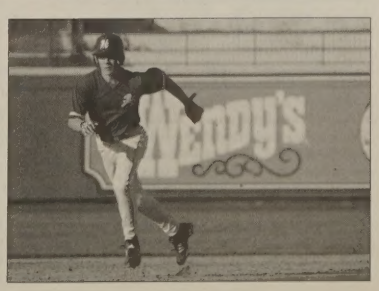
Due to press deadlines, the result of the sectional games were not included.

> "Our team is very talented this year, we have talent all the way through the line up, anyone can step up at any time and take over the game."
>
> **CODY O'NEAL (11)**
> Outfielder



PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Above: Patrick Veerkamp (12) pitches against New Haven. Right: Derek Kinzer (12) sprints from second to third base at Parkview Field against New Haven on March 13.



High school sports teach lasting lessons

FULL COURT PRESS

BY CHRIS RAY
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the past four years walking through these halls, I've seen great athletes and teams brush past me. And as my final year winds down, I realize that the athletes, teams and sports that I have witnessed at this school have given me more than just something to watch. These athletes and teams have taught me important life lessons that I will continue to use throughout my life and will never forget when I reminisce back to my years as a Spartan.

To me, sports have a deeper meaning than what people see on the surface. Sure, they provide entertainment to spectators, but as an athlete, I see that without sports, life would be a little bit more complicated. Without sports in my life, I wouldn't have a grasp on camaraderie. Through basketball and other sports in my life, I've learned that relationships with my teammates are as important as winning and losing. After all, once everything is said and done, we won't remember the individual stops along the way. We'll remember the entire journey and the people we spent it with. That's why I love sports. They teach us different traits that we wouldn't normally get in an athletics-less world.

Sports have also given me the chance to learn how to be a leader and handle times of adversity. When Rodney passed away this year, we were all stunned and hurt by the news. Rodney had such an effect on all of us in some way or another. Personally, I was devastated. As he was going to be one of the three seniors on the team, I was counting on him to bring some leadership to the squad. But with him gone, I learned to step up, keep all the guys focused and together and make a year to remember. In the real world, situations like this can happen, but in high school, it is rare to run into something with the same magnitude. Sports can teach us more than we know.

Over the past two years, I've written a column about sports at our school, in our area, and around our country. Each column has been a commentary, observation, criticism or reflection on the athletic events going on in our lives, whether it was writing about Michael Vick getting in trouble for dog fighting, high school athletes eating the Michael Phelps diet or about the things I'll miss about high school basketball.

The goal of each of my columns over the past two years has not been to merely entertain you, but to show you the deeper meaning of things happening in the sporting world. Like I said, to me, sports is not just about entertaining people, but teaching them life lessons through a universal game that we can each individually enjoy. Did my column do that every week? I don't know, but I sure tried.

As I move on in my life, I will continue to love sports with all of my heart. (Is it bad that I know more about the NBA playoffs than I do about our economy?). When looking back on my time as a Spartan I will remember the guys I played with and the people I played for while on the court. I will think about the lessons that sports have taught me over the years. And as I sign off from the sports section, I want all of you to realize one thing. It's not just a game. It's life.

Heading into Home

PHOTO BY SUZIE REECER

Softball team ranked first in state, 24th in nation heading into regional competition

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

With an amazing season already under their belt, the members of the varsity softball team are looking to make their season even more amazing with a run at the state title.

The team is ranked first overall in Class 4A going into the state tournament, which came as a surprise to some players.

"We were shocked at being top-ranked [in the] state. We are good, but we did not know we were that good. The tournament is coming up and hopefully that is going to show how good we really are," Missy Harber (12) said.

> "We were shocked at being top-ranked [in the] state. We are good, but we did not know we were that good."
>
> **MISSY HARBER (12)**
> Third Baseman

In addition to being ranked number one in the state, the players were even more shocked that they were ranked nationally. USA Today ranked the team 24th in the nation.

"The national ranking came by surprise; I did not even know there is one. But I was proud to see our team there even though it is hard to believe. This is one of those things you look at, love it and then shove it to the side so you can focus on the rest of the season," Nikki Wilson (12) said.

Last Saturday, the team played LaPorte, who was ranked 13th in state. This match up provided a real test for the team to see if they could match up with top opponents in the state tournament. The team passed the test and showed they are not to be trifled with in a 5-2 victory.

"It was exciting to beat LaPorte. I think they came into the game expecting to beat us," Mallory Harber (12) said. "I think our defense and timely hitting surprised them. It was important to beat a state-ranked team because we've only had a few close games all year, and with sectionals starting next week, it shows we can compete with the best of them."

The softball team was lucky enough to receive a bye on the first day of the sectional competition, so they squared off against Huntington North on Wednesday evening. They won in dominating fashion by a score of 19-1 to advance to the sectional championship game to be held on May 29. If they win, the team will head to regional competition.

"We had already beat Huntington North earlier this season, but we did not want to get overconfident by looking ahead to Friday's championship game," Missy said.

Boasting a high powered offense, the team also has an effective pitching staff with Jacqui Matheis (12) leading the way. Matheis is 15-0 and has an earned run average that is less than one, not to mention she has also pitched a perfect game this year.

"Hopefully, I can continue to pitch well, and the team can continue to play well like we all have been. Obviously that will be key to our success in the postseason," Matheis said.

With strong starting pitching and a powerful offense, the number one team in the state, and 24th-ranked team in the nation, is ready to play for the sectional championship tonight, at home, against Jay County. With a win, they will advance to the regional competition, which will be played next week.

Top: Erica Leeper (12) runs to home base to score a run against Huntington North on May 27. The Spartans won the game 19-1. Right: Coach Ann Matheis congratulates a player for a job well done. Left: Emma Dafforn catches a ball at first base. Dafforn has had 140 put outs and no errors in 24 games.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Sports Sparknotes

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

GIRLS' TRACK

BY JOE HANAUER
WRITER

Last Tuesday, the girls' varsity track team had several runners place high in the regional tournament. Terraysha Gordon (11) placed second in the 200-meter dash, while Meghan Terrell (12) placed fifth in the 1600-meter race. Unlike most other sports, as track progresses, fewer and fewer members continue on into the postseason.

The team is strong all around, and is led by leaders like Terrell, who also runs the 800-meter dash and the 4x800 meter relay, and Chloe Smith (11) who pole vaults. The team has greatly improved since last year, with the help of strong underclassmen members such as Whitney Neal (10) and Haley Havert (9). This year, Terraysha Gordon qualified for state championships in the 200 meter dash. This year the state championships will take place at Robert C. Haugh Track and Field Complex, Indiana University, Bloomington. With semi-state right around the corner, the runners knew that they would have to achieve their best scores at the regional tournament with the help of the underclassmen.

"It's great to see our underclassmen working hard and competing hard against runners from rival schools," Terrell said.

The team members came into the year hoping to achieve their personal best times, and they are well on their way to those goals as the season comes to an end.

BOYS' TRACK

BY MAT MIKESELL
WRITER

Last week, the boys' varsity track team finished off another outstanding sectional performance, with several members advancing onto the regional competition. Evan Hanley (12) advanced in the 1600-meter race and Kodi Mullins (10) also advanced in the 3200-meter race. Connor O'Shaughnessy (11) won the 800-meter event and Austin Barnes (10) won the 400-meter dash. Dan Haught (12) won the 100-meter dash, Scott Harrison (12) won the shot put event and Joel Sluyter (12) won the high jump event.

In the relays, Colin Lyman (12), Kyle Beutler (12), Hanley and O'Shaughnessy kept their unbeaten streak alive by winning the 4x800-meter relay. The relay team of Lyman, Beutler, Barnes and Chris Benson (12) also won the 4x400-meter relay.

"Our [4x800-meter relay team] is running with a chip on our shoulders," Lyman said. "We feel we should win every time we compete."

On Thursday, the boys competed in the regional competition at Wayne High School, and they placed fifth as a team. Barnes, David Meza (11) and Phil O'Brien (11), Harrison and the relay team of Beutler, Lyman, Hanley and O'Shaughnessy all advanced to the state finals, in the 400-meter dash, the pole vault event, the shot-put event and the 4x800-meter relay, respectively.

GIRLS' TENNIS

BY ALEX FUTTER
WRITER

In a classic rivalry, the girls' varsity tennis team was looking for revenge after last year's heartbreaking loss to Canterbury in the sectional competition. This year, sectionals were set up so that if Canterbury and Homestead both won out, they would meet in the finals -- both did.

The 13th-ranked Spartans outplayed Canterbury to reclaim their sectional crown. A 4-1 victory over their arch rivals showed the team is willing and able to go deep in the postseason tournament. Jade Johnson (12) and her sister Macy Johnson (9) picked up a point a piece, as did Samantha Rahrig (9), and Kate Bienz (12) and Theresa Sciole (12) also picked up a point in their doubles match.

"It was a great feeling to win. Both teams played well, but we ended up pulling it out in the end. We are so excited to get the chance to go to the state finals as a team," Jade said.

Next up was the regional competition, which also took place at Homestead. On Tuesday night the team faced Carroll, whom the team steamrolled 5-0 to advance to the regional finals, where the girls decisively beat DeKalb 5-0.

With the victory over DeKalb, the 16-0 Spartans advanced to semi-state. The team will play tomorrow against Zionsville in the semi-state semi-finals. The finals are scheduled for 2 p.m. if the Spartans win their semi-final match up.

TEE PARTY

COPY AND PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

This year, almost every event, team or club has created an unique t-shirt that has some significant meaning. So, to wrap up the school year, we thought it would be appropriate to highlight accomplishments from the 2008-2009 school year in t-shirts.

Football Seniors
August 2008

Before school started, a group of senior girls took orders for those interested in buying shirts for the football student section. Over 300 shirts were ordered, with the names of the 21 senior football players listed on the back.

Marching Band
November 2008

The Spartan Alliance Marching Band placed fourth with their show "Magnetism," marking their 21st consecutive state appearance. They have placed in the top four at the state competition for the past 18 years.

Dance Team
Winter 2009

The dance teams held their first successful t-shirt sale when team members sold the yellow "Pump It Up" shirts during lunch prior to the annual Homestead Dance Invitational. Later in their season at state, varsity placed first in lyrical and second in jazz, marking the first time Homestead's varsity team has ever placed higher than Munster.

Girls Swimming
February 2009

Swimmers McKenzie (12) and Tori Bagan (10) became the first sisters in school history to both win an individual event at the same state finals. The sisters were joined by 12 of their teammates to place third with a total of 163 points.

Dance Marathon
February 2009

Before participating in the 24 hour dance marathon, students had to raise at least $350 with their chosen partner for the event. When students arrived at school, they were given their purple shirts that had to be worn until midnight when the Midnight Madness dodgeball tournament began. As a result of the students' fundraising, the athletic department grossed over $30,000.

Dirty Duckers
March 2009

In the middle of Just Because Week, teams of junior and senior girls played against each other in the main gym for the seventh annual Dirty Duckers dodgeball tournament. Of the 144 participants, the junior team of Alissa Baker, Mara Wolff, Brooke Whitney, Terraysha Gordon, Jazmine Zavala and Suzie Reecer won the tournament.

Baseball
Spring 2009

After earning state runner-up last spring, the baseball team has maintained a top ten state ranking all season. The team traveled to Tennessee for their second annual spring break training trip. Of the nine seniors leading the team, five are playing baseball at the collegiate level next year.

Softball
Spring 2009

Ranked second in the state and 24th in the nation, this year's softball team was the first in school history to have an undefeated season (26-0). With help from her teammates, Jacqui Matheis (12) pitched Homestead's first ever perfect game against East Noble.

Homecoming
September 2008

Following the "Gold Rush" theme, yellow shirts were sold for the Homecoming football game against the Bellmont Braves on Friday night. After the 34-14 win, students were welcome to go to the cafeteria for the first school dance of the year.

Class of 2009
Fall 2008

To honor the Class of 2009, Student Government seniors designed and sold their own class shirt. The front of the shirts said "It took 2009 years to get a class this fresh" and on the back, all of the names of seniors were listed.

Rod Sillies
Winter 2009

The basketball student section was named the "Rod Sillies" after the tragic death of varsity basketball senior Rodney Thompson in October. Enthusiastic fans dedicated both their cheers and the section shirts to their classmate, ending every game by chanting "We Love Rodney."

STAND
Winter 2009

In its first year as an official club, STAND raised about $260 during STANDFast for the Genocide Intervention Network. The club also donated $150 to the World Food Program with the profits from their t-shirt sale. STAND members wrote letters to representatives and President Barack Obama to encourage politicians to take action against genocide in Darfur.

DECA
February 2009

For the state competition, DECA students traveled to Indianapolis to present on different marketing topics in front of judges. After winning state in Hospitality Marketing, partners Molly Harber (12) and Kate Lessing (12) and four other Homestead students qualified for the International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California in April.

JCL
March 2009

Even though they were one of the smallest teams in recent school history, the 17 members of Junior Classical League placed first in sweepstakes at their state competition. At the convention, Saurabh Sharma (9) and Ravi Vemula (11) were elected vice president and parliamentarian, respectively, for Indiana's JCL executive board next year.

Morp
March 2009

Sold during lunch for $10, the black MORP t-shirts also served as the ticket to get into the dance. Morp was held at Hilger's and was the conclusion of Student Government's annual Just Because Week.

Earthfest
April 2009

Due to the weather, Earthfest was held in the atrium rather than outside in the courtyard. The proceeds from the event were used to offset ten tons of carbon and to fund research on carbon emissions. Fewer brown and green t-shirts were ordered for this year's event after the extreme surplus of last year's shirts.